



ECHO IRELAND

Journal of the
Irish Radio Transmitters Society

August 2010



Tarbert Island Lighthouse

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Alan EI8EM; Dermot EI2GT; Ger EI4GXB

Picture EI7ALB

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News Bulletins and Readers

Sunday				
Dublin	1100	7.043	SSB	Sean EI7CD, Gerry EI8CC, Roland EI4GYB, Ger EI4GXB
Wicklow	1130	3.680	SSB	(as Gaeilge) Paddy EI7GK, Danny EI6GS
Dublin	1145	145.525	FM	Tony EI5EM, John EI7JG, Frank EI6EF, Liam EI3HK
Dublin	1200	3.650	SSB	As 1100
Mayo	2000	145.600	FM	John EI7IQ, Padraic EI9JA, Jimmy EI2GCB
Tipperary	2030	145.450	FM	Tommy EI2IT, John EI2JB, Andy EI5JF
Dublin	2130	145.525	FM	As 1145
Monday				
Cork	2000	145.750	FM	Vincent EI7HN
Limerick	2000	145.725	FM	Brian EI9AL, Simon EI7ALB, Gerry EI3JU, Ger EI4GXB
Louth	2000	145.675		Peter EI4HX, Thos EI2JD
Galway	2000	145.550		Steve EI5DD
Tuesday				
Waterford	2130	145.650	FM	Francis EI5GOB

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When is my membership due for renewal?

Your membership renewal date is shown on the wrapper in which the newsletter is posted – above the name and address. For those who receive Echo Ireland by electronic distribution, the renewal date is included in the email alert sent when a new issue is published. Members who pay by direct debit will see “(DD)” after the renewal date.

Use **www.irts.ie/renew** to renew your membership at any time; you can also renew at a Rally, or by sending your annual subscription directly to the Treasurer.

Please renew early to keep our postage and other costs down.

Membership is extended by 12 months from the normal renewal date whenever a payment is received.

Joe Ryan, Membership Records Officer
memrecords@irts.ie

Silent Key Colm Ardiff EI3H

It is with deep regret that we have to inform you of the death of Colm Ardiff EI3H. Colm's health had been gradually deteriorating over the past while and he died peacefully on Sunday August 1st after a short illness.

Colm was born in Howth, County Dublin and in his younger days served as a marine radio officer. Once a month he and some former 'old salt' colleagues met in Wynne's Hotel in Abbey Street to chat and reminisce on their days at sea.

On returning to land based employment Colm worked for a brief period in the Aer Lingus radio workshops before joining the then Department of Transport and Power. He served in various capacities in that Department and its successors, including Dublin Airport and the Departments Headquarters where he was serving on his retirement.

In amateur radio Colm was, as you would expect, an accomplished CW operator. He is probably best known for his transmission of the Sunday 40 metre News since its inception over 30 years ago. This is a job he was 'talked into' supposedly for a brief period by the late Tom O'Connor EI9U. Through these bulletins and his standing in for the 80 metre operators from time to time, the '3 Hotel' call sign and voice became well known to the amateur radio community throughout the country as well as to his regular callers from the UK. Colm always had some friendly words for all those who reported on the news bulletins and his infectious good humour was evident in the exchanges with these stations.

In recognition of his many years of dedicated service to the Society and to Amateur Radio, Colm was recently made an Honorary Member of IRTS. The esteem with which Colm was held both in amateur radio and in his professional life was evidenced by the fact that Tom EI3AL, who had worked with Colm, travelled from Killarney to be present at the funeral Mass.

Colm will be sadly missed by his many friends in the amateur radio community and unfortunately the familiar 'CQ CQ CQ all radio amateurs and short wave listeners' at the start of the preamble to the Sunday news will be heard no more from the station of Echo India 3 Hotel.

The funeral took place on Wednesday last to Fingal Cemetery after 11 a.m. Mass in the Church of the Resurrection, Bayview, Sutton. Among the attendance at the funeral were Séamus EI8BP, Vice President IRTS, representing the President Paul EI2CA who is away on holiday at present, Michael EI2CL, Pierce EI4CI, Ian EI7CX, Joe EI7GY, Joe EI4FV, Thos EI2JD, Peter EI4HX, Seán EI2CR, John EI7BV, Tom EI3AL and Seán EI7CD.

To his wife Frances, his sons Barry and Neil and to his extended family and friends we offer our sincerest sympathy. May his gentle soul rest in peace.
Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis

The family of the late Pat Maher EI3AV, Knockearl, Cloughjordan, wish to thank most sincerely all of the Radio Club members who attended Pats Removal, Requiem Mass and Burial, those who sympathised with us on our sad loss, who sent Mass Cards and Certs of Enrolment. As it would be impossible to thank everyone, individually, please accept this acknowledgement as a token of our appreciation. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass has been offered.

Silent Key Ted Crowley EI3CY

We are sorry to record the death of Ted Crowley EI3CY of Greystones, Co. Wicklow.

Ted had been ill and died in St. Vincents University Hospital, Dublin on Friday, 30th July.

Ted was originally from Ballyregan, Cloyne, Co. Cork and was a marine radio officer before joining Radio Telefis Éireann and becoming involved in the introduction of the TV service here.

He was also seconded to developing countries to work as an adviser on the introduction of broadcasting services. On retiring from RTE he ran a very successful electronics business with his wife Anne.

Ted was a true radio experimenter and contributed items periodically to Echo Ireland.

Ted's funeral took place on Monday, August 2nd after 10 a.m. Requiem Mass in the Church of the Holy Rosary, Greystones to Redford Cemetery.

To his wife Anne, his son Séamus and his stepchildren Mary, Michael, Anne and Cathy as well as to his extended family we offer our sincerest sympathy.

May he rest in peace.

Silent Key YV1NX/EI4BD

YV1NX, Fergus Walshe O'Shea, ex EI4BD has become a Silent Key.

He was a well known DXer and many EI operators have worked Fergus, particularly on CW, for YV credit on all bands from 160 to 10 metres.

In the late 1950s he was very active from Qatar as MP4QAL.

He was a member of the First Operators Club, FOC and was very active up to his recent sudden death. He will be missed.

Echo Ireland Input

All input for inclusion in Echo Ireland should be sent to:

Dave Moore EI4BZ,
Dooneen, Carrigtwohill,
Co. Cork.
ei4bz@eircom.net

G3RJV Talk on QRP available Online

Amid much interest in Ireland and world-wide, the QRP talk by George Dobbs, G3RJV, at the Lough Erne Rally is now available on-line

Go to www.batc.tv

Click on the 'Film Archive' icon, then select G3RJV QRP Lecture from the drop-down list

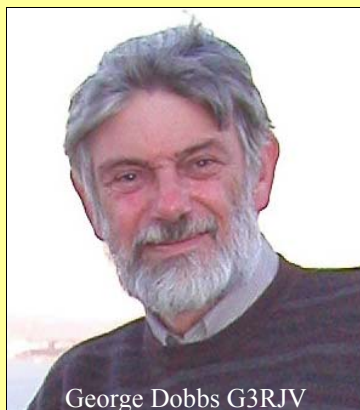
There is a link just under the player to save the video to your computer.

Alongside the audio, this excellent BATC video directly uses the G3RJV slides.

The details of circuits, for example, are sharp, clear and shown long enough to study in full.

This video is just one of the many useful services offered by BATC to amateur radio.

Lough Erne ARC is most grateful to George G3RJV, SHARE and the British Amateur Television Club.



George Dobbs G3RJV

Michael Clarke MI5MTC, Chairman LEARC.

Videos such as this are examples of the wide variety of services offered by BATC to the amateur radio community. These include an excellent magazine.

New members are very welcome. Cyber membership, magazine by email, costs as little as £4.00 on-line. Membership gives individuals and clubs access to the BATC streamer allowing live webcasts from your shack or from a radio club display, talk or meeting.

British Amateur Television Club (BATC)

<http://www.batc.org.uk/>

IRTS Committee

2010/11

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Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX
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Stephen Wright EI5DD
Brendan Minish EI6IZ
Sean Nolan EI7CD
Joe Ryan EI7GY
Ger Gervin EI8CC
Charlie Carolan EI8JB
Pat O'Connor EI9HX

IRTS Committee Meeting

Saturday October 9th

at 1100

Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise



THE CW OPERATORS' CLUB

Celebrating The Unique Art Form Of Morse Code

CW Operators Club or CWops is trying to attract more EU members to join its growing membership list.

The goal of CWops is to bring together Amateur Radio operators who enjoy communicating by Morse Code. CWops encourages the use of CW in amateur communications and it supports CW activity through planned events.

CWops promotes goodwill among amateurs throughout the world and it fosters the education of young people and others in matters related to Amateur Radio.

If you are interested in joining, full details of membership can be found on their website:

<http://www.cwops.org/> or from Ryan G5CL (see QRZ.com)

Theory Classes in Clane

Michael EI2GKB who has run very successful classes in the South Dublin Radio Club intends to run classes for the Amateur Station Licence examination in Scoil Mhuire, Clane, Co. Kildare in the autumn.

If you are interested please contact Michael on 087-2481970.

Outgoing QSL Bureau

Please mail your cards directly to the Outgoing Bureau Manager:

Anthony Baldwin EI8JK,
Rathlin,
Kilcrohane,
Co. Cork.

ei8jk@amsat.org

Region 4 Theory Classes



New Region 4 licensees Brendan McNamara EI9GHB and Pat Ryan EI8GZB

Silent Key

Tom (Caleb) O'Donnell EI4Z 1913-2010

At the time of his death the oldest living HAM radio operator in Europe.

The youngest of three sons, Tom was born in Dublin on the 29th of December 1913 to John William O'Donnell and Sarah Jane O'Donnell (nee Hardy) the youngest of 3 brothers, George (EI4G) and John.

In the early 1930's Tom undertook a course in electricity and magnetism at Kevin St. College of Technology because "he was working in the ESB but did not have the foggiest notion what happened when you turned on a light switch".

In 1935 Tom began studying radio communications in Kevin St. and subsequently went on to work for Huet Bros, Douglas Radio. He then moved to Nugent and Cooper (on the site of the present Abbey Theatre) where he subsequently became manager.

In 1939 he joined the army signal corps as a telegraphist, linesman and radio operator. During this period he built six direction finder systems that were used by the intelligence service. In 1949 Nugent and Cooper became agents for Coastal Radio resulting in Tom selling and installing radio equipment in most of Ireland's fishing fleet and indeed installing the first radio telephone on Lambay Island.

Tom married May McAdams in 1942 and produced three children Ray, Philip and Joan over the next 11 years. He subsequently had six grandchildren and two great grand children.

Somewhere between 1935 and 1940 Tom took up an interest in amateur radio along with his brother and they operated the call signs EI4Z and EI4G, respectively. At that time Tom built all his own equipment including the metal cabinets. Initially these were CW transmitters using a single 807 output stage. However, he rapidly progressed to multiple 813's in parallel. As he used to say at one stage the street lights would dip when he keyed the transmitter. In the early 1950's he also built from components one of the first TV sets in the



country with a small green 5" screen receiving pictures via an enormous mast from Crystal palace in London.

Tom moved on through telephony equipment to single sideband and acquired his first computer at the age of 80. He promptly organised an RTTY terminal and matching software which he was delighted to be still able to operate. In 2005 he purchased a Yaesu FT-847 but, alas, his eye sight had failed to such a degree that he could not see the minute switches or display. His son, Philip (EI3DA mm), has kept this set and is in the process of transferring EI4Z to his name.

Tom O'Donnell died June 4th, 2010 of heart failure at the age of 96 years at St. Mary's Nursing Home, Phoenix Park, Dublin. He never really got over the death of his beloved wife, May, in April 2001.

Slowly over the intervening 9 years his memory began to deteriorate and eventually it became apparent, as dementia set in, that it was not possible for him to maintain the independence that he and May clung to.

An initial attempt to enter Elmhurst Nursing Home in Glasnevin proved unacceptable to him and he returned to his home. However, he soon developed pneumonia and had to be moved to the Mater Hospital.

While recuperating in St. Mary's Nursing Home he had one of several falls which broke his hip and required that it be replaced.

His dementia continued to escalate and his slow withdrawal from us went its inevitable path.

Silent Key EI6Q

We are sad to have to report the passing of Louis J Robinson, EI6Q who has been a long time member of IRTS. He will be sadly missed by his family and friends.
May he rest in peace.

Silent Key EI3G

We are sad to report on the death of EI3G Denis Kelly who dies in Edinburgh on June 29th
May he rest in peace

Silent Key EI9FC

We are sorry to have to inform you of the death on 18 June of Frank Cullen EI9FC.

Frank was originally from Valentia Island in Kerry and died at his home in Dalkey, County Dublin after an illness. He was 82 years of age. Frank will be sadly missed by his six children, his grandchildren, his brother, three sisters and his extended family.

We extend our sincerest sympathy to his family and friends.
May he rest in peace.

Friedrichshafen 2010

The society again mounted a stand at Europe's largest amateur radio rally held in Friedrichshafen, Germany from June 25th to 27th.

The organisers report an attendance of 16,800 at their 35th show with 185 exhibitors from 29 countries displaying their products.

The IRTS stand attracted lots of visitors over the three days and great interest was shown in the display. Our thanks to all who gave of their time to man the stand.

Next years dates: June 24th/26th 2011

Online Access to Echo Ireland

If you would like to have online access to the complete library of Echo Ireland issues from 2001 onwards and receive new issues of Echo Ireland by way of electronic download instead of in hard copy, please advise the Membership Records Officer.

Include your call sign and email address in the request and send it to: memrecords@irts.ie

Amateur Radio Licence Examination Report

The most recent Amateur Radio Licence Examination was held in July 2010 at two centres – Limerick and Dublin. Twenty-one candidates sat the examination, twelve of whom were successful.

In this report we highlight some of the topics that seemed to cause difficulty for candidates. Bear in mind, of course, that the examination questions can cover any of the topics in the syllabus.

The document “Studying for the Amateur Radio Examination” (which can be found at www.irts.ie/downloads) includes a copy of the HAREC (Harmonised Amateur Radio Examination Certificate) syllabus to be used up to the end of 2010.

Examinations held in 2011 onwards will be based on a revised HAREC-standard syllabus – see www.irts.ie/syllabus for more about the revised syllabus.

Those familiar with the examination will be aware that it consists of 60 multiple-choice questions, divided over three sections, each of which must be passed in order to gain an overall pass.

The pass mark for each section is 60%.

Section A

Elementary Theory of Radiocommunications (35 questions)

An amateur radio licence entitles the holder to transmit using home-constructed equipment, so part of the licence examination is designed to test candidates knowledge of basic electrical and electronic principles including components, simple circuits, transmitters and receivers. Questions in this section also cover feeders, antennas, propagation and measurements.

For those without a technical background, this part of an amateur radio licence course may seem daunting.

However, the level of technical knowledge expected is, indeed, “elementary”; furthermore, in the few questions that involve arithmetical calculations, only very basic maths is needed to identify the correct answer from the four choices given.

While some candidates clearly had little or no difficulty with this section – two answered all 35 questions correctly and many more had just a few incorrect answers – other candidates seemed to struggle with some of the most basic concepts dealt with in the questions; for example there was confusion between the meaning of volts and amps, some candidates were unable to identify the correct total capacitance in a circuit involving just 3 capacitors, some did not know that the value of an inductor could be measured in microhenrys, nor could they identify the correct option for increasing the

inductance of a coil.

The questions on transmitters and receivers require a broad understanding of the architecture of transmitters and receivers.

Looking at the answers given in the recent exam, this was one of the areas that candidates could usefully spend more time on: they need to have a good understanding of the purpose of the basic building blocks of transmitters and receivers and their interrelationships, i.e. what is going on in each of the building blocks (VFO, mixer, BFO etc.) and what it is contributing to the transmitter or receiver.

The second half of Section A is devoted to the more practical topics of feeders, antennas, propagation and measurements.

The standard of answering here was better than in the earlier parts, although we were somewhat surprised at the number of incorrect answers given for questions on areas that we would expect prospective radio amateurs to be familiar with, such as:

- how to increase the resonant frequency of a dipole antenna
- how to achieve the furthest possible skip distance
- measuring current drawn from a power supply

The easiest and most enjoyable way of preparing for questions such as these is to gain some practical experience of setting up and operating an amateur radio station in a club or similar environment.

Section B

National and International Rules and Operating Procedures (15 questions)

Radio amateurs potentially have access to more than 20 frequency bands spanning the entire radio spectrum. When you think of the other services that use radio signals – broadcast stations, marine and air navigation and safety, satellites, GPS and mobile phones, to name but a few – you can see why radio amateurs, like all others licensed to transmit radio signals, must abide by certain rules.

Section B of the examination covers the Irish regulations contained in published ComReg documents along with international regulations relating to amateur radio published by the ITU and CEPT, band plans (IARU) and accepted operating procedures such as Q-Codes, operational abbreviations, the phonetic alphabet and distress signals.

While some of the questions in this section were well answered, we were very surprised to discover that more than half of the candidates did not know the frequency range cov-

ered by the 10 metre band, and a similar proportion of candidates were unable to correctly identify a contest band from the choices given.

Knowing the frequency range of a major amateur band, or knowing where contests are and are not permitted, are key competencies that radio amateurs are expected to have.

Section C

Safety and Electromagnetic Compatibility (10 questions)

While licensed radio amateurs are given the unique privilege of being permitted to construct, install and operate home-constructed radio transmission equipment, to get a licence they must first demonstrate a knowledge of issues around electromagnetic compatibility (EMC); they must also show that they know how to minimise transmitter interference and that they are aware of key safety considerations.

Nearly all candidates passed this section. A question about selecting the most appropriate quarter-wave stub to minimise interference was the only one that was poorly answered by the majority of candidates. Some also had problems identifying the purpose of an earth wire.

Conclusions

Success in the examination leads to a Harmonised Amateur Radio Examination Certificate (HAREC) qualification which entitles the holder to apply for a lifetime Amateur Station Licence and opens the door to full participation in the amateur radio hobby. It's a very worthwhile goal.

To get the HAREC qualification, candidates need to have some technical knowledge and they also need a reasonable understanding of the rules and regulations that apply to amateur radio stations.

The point has already been made that practical experience can be an important part of exam preparation. We would particularly encourage those who were unsuccessful in the recent exam to seek out opportunities to participate in setting up and operating an amateur radio station under the supervision of an existing licence holder. This could improve their understanding of the practical aspects of amateur radio such as antennas, propagation, operating practices and band plans.

Some home study or class work covering the basics of electricity, electronic components and circuits is also suggested.

IRTS Examination Board
Seán Nolan EI7CD
Sean Donelan EI4GK
Joe Ryan EI7GY

EI0HQ

Traditionally, IARU members Society stations competed in the IARU HF Championships with the bigger societies mounting huge campaigns with stations on every band/mode at various locations throughout their countries.

A most unfortunate dispute has arisen in connection with the 2009 IARU HF World Championship between participants in two HQ station entries: AO8HQ on behalf of Union de Radioaficionados Espanoles (URE) and DA0HQ on behalf of the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC).

The ARRL who administer the contest on behalf of IARU came to the following conclusion:

"First, we have allowed too much emphasis to develop on competition between HQ station entries. The special category of HQ stations was intended to raise the visibility of the IARU member-societies among active radio amateurs, and to make the contest more interesting to participants by providing additional multipliers. It was never intended to be a competition for the highest world score. Clearly there can never be a "level playing field" for such competition, nor does it further the objectives of the IARU.

Second, in adjudicating the 2009 contest results a serious error was made in the initial computation of scores." Therefore, the ARRL Awards Committee has decided that no certificate will be awarded for the high scoring IARU member society HQ station in the 2009 IARU HF World Championship.

A certificate will be awarded to each continental leader, and certificates of appreciation for their participation will be awarded to all HQ stations.

Effective with the 2010 IARU HF World Championship, no adjudication of HQ station logs will be conducted by the ARRL. A certificate of participation will be awarded to each IARU member society HQ station.

Also effective with the 2010 event, by submitting a log the submitter agrees that the log may be made public, at the discretion of the Contest Sponsor.

On hearing about this it was decided to abandon plans to put on a country-wide effort and our thanks and appreciation go to all who had expressed an interest in putting EI0HQ on the air, your assistance may be needed next year.

EI0HQ did indeed go on air from the Clogherhead QTH of EI2JD on all band/modes.

Thos had the assistance of some local operators that helped out over the 24 hours which included Oleg EI2JK, Pat EI2HX, Mark EI6JK and Charlie EI8JB.

Also helping out was Manfred DJ5MW who was on holidays touring Ireland and planned a stop in Clogherhead to visit the station.

The full text of the ARRL press release is available from Contest Manager Thos EI2JD at thoscaffrey@hotmail.com.

If you were active during any of the IRTS contests please do send your log, be it big or small, to the contest manager as they all help in correcting the contest logs.

Hope you are ready for the bigger contests coming up over the next few months, especially the CQ Worldwide SSB contest at the end of October.

See last years EI performances and records elsewhere in this issue.

Silent Key

Eddie Steadman, EI9DJB



It is with great sadness that we report on the recent passing of Eddie Steadman, EI9DJB.

Born in Toronto and having lived in Britain and Ireland, Eddie travelled a lot and was keen to learn about other countries and cultures.

This led to an initial interest in Shortwave radio.

In his younger days, Eddie served in the RAF and spend some time stationed India, Burma, Singapore and Malaya (now Malaysia) and also travelled during his career as a sound engineer.

Apart from his military and professional postings, Eddie travelled a lot for leisure right up to recent times and spent much time in the US, Canada, Portugal, Spain, Germany, France and Switzerland.

Eddie worked in Pathe news where he started his career as an Elevator Boy, bringing people to their desired floor, at this time he shared an elevator with some well known people including, Frank Sinatra and Tommy Cooper.

He progressed on to become a sound engineer with Pathe during which time he interviewed Peter Sellers.

What many people didn't know about Eddie is that he was a sound engineer for the TV broadcast of the investiture of Prince Charles and also worked on the broadcast of the 1966 World Cup!

Eddie was a keen on cinematography and was involved in the making of TV documentary about Malaysia. This interest was also maintained as a hobby right from the days of film up to more recently where he used digital media.

Eddie took up residency in Waterford about 20 years ago and during this time he pursued his interest in art having some of his work exhibited around the south east.

It was also during this time in Waterford that he first got the ticket and became EI9DJB.

For the past 10 years, Eddie was an active member of the South Eastern Amateur Radio Group and served on the committee for the last 10 years, right up to the time of his death.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to his family and friends.



Pat EI2HX, Manfred DJ5MW, Thos EI2JD and Mark EI6JK after the IARU contest as EI0HQ



HF Happenings

with Dave Deane EI9FBB

Welcome to the newest and latest edition of 'HF Happenings'. I hope you are all fully recharged and refreshed after such a busy few weeks to say the least. As usual, the IOTA contest was the 'highlight' of July with many rare and unusual ones gracing the bands. In fact, one had to search (and pretty hard at times) to find a clear enough frequency to CQ for that matter! It was great to see so much EI activity and competing in this years contest, with the number of participants up on previous years. Some of the noted calls are as follows: EJ3Z (eu-121), EJ1DD (eu-121), EJ4II (eu-103), EI/SQ7JT (eu-007), EI/WG5N, EI2JD, EI5DI, EI6JK, EI6KC, EI7GY, EI7JN, EI8JB, EI8JX, & EI9HQ and apologies to anyone who I may have missed.

Annobon & Equatorial Guinea.

The Spanish duo (EA5BYP Elmo & EA5KM Javi) who were QRV recently from 2 rare African entities, Annobon & Equatorial Guinea, finished up amassing a total of 18,990 QSOs despite the few 'hiccups' that mother nature had lined up. 18.00 GMT on the 8th June saw 3C0C on both 15M & 17M. If you worked them before this time, I'm sorry, but it was one of the many 'pirates' that abused this one. We had regular sunspots throughout this operation which certainly helped the higher bands but as one can imagine, operating just 3 degrees North of the equator, made for a very difficult copy below 30M. The team had every intention to try 80m/160m from here but after several hours of 5/9+20dB noise, they decided to abandon that idea and spend more time on 40/30m and above. Some lucky guys DID make it through though, go on 7BA!!! 3 days later, a massive storm hit the island, destroying their antennas. Several hours of 'off time' were inevitable to try to repair these and continue their operation. Then, they had generator failure. As Annobon is not a resort island, getting their hands on the necessary repair parts is not easy. Thankfully they had a backup generator and so back to the pile-ups. The morning of 17th June, the duo got urgent word that they had to QRT immediately due to logistical problems. This is Africa after all!! Showing true ham spirit, they immediately flew to Malabo (Equatorial Guinea) and were QRV as 3C9B until 21st June. Unfortunately due to further problems, they had to cut this

operation short by 4 days. Hats off to these 2 guys, who suffered more than their fair share of hardship just to activate these 2 rare DXCCs, and for us to possibly 'nab' a new band/mode.

Below are the tables and logs of the EI's that made it through.

3C9B Equatorial Guinea 7310 QSOs			3C0C Annobon Island 11,680 QSOs		
1	EI9O	3	1	EI7BA	8
2	EI2JD	2	2	EI9FBB	4
3	EI7JN	2	3	EI9O	4
4	EI9JF	2	4	EI2JD	3
5	EI9FBB	2	5	EI8GS	2
6	EI2CR	1	6	EI2CN	2
7	EI4GK	1	7	EI4GXB	1
8	EI7BA	1	8	EI6GEB	1
9	EI8GUB	1	9	EI9JF	1
			10	EI6IZ	1
			11	EI3GV	1
			12	EI7JN	1
			13	EI7H	1
			14	EI6HW	1

My 7 year old daughter asked me recently what's the difference between a hobby, an interest and a past-time? Is there a difference? This enticed me to put my thinking hat on and to try to come up with a valid (believable) answer. With this hobby/past-time of ours there are so many different aspects of interest. Some folk enjoy working on a home constructed project and get immense pleasure if/when it works, more folk enjoy the competitive side of things and enjoy contesting. I for one enjoy the DX side of things and love communicating with other like minded people no matter which part of the world they come from, (DX being outside of your own continent). When you try this on each of the 10 bands makes things that bit more challenging. Each band is unique and as each characters its own propagation makes things interesting (or difficult) for that matter.

One that will keep many happy and occupied is the expected separation of the Dutch Caribbean islands this coming October. The proposed date of 10/10/10 makes it easy to remember so to keep you all informed, the following has been extracted from the pages of the Daily DX.

Netherlands Antilles.

Radio One from the Netherlands reported

that the Dutch Senate (Eerste Kamer der Staten-Generaal) agreed to disband the Netherland Antilles. The effective date is October 10, 2010 (10-10-10).

The breakup will give the Dutch Caribbean islands of Curacao and Sint Maarten independent country status within the Kingdom of The Netherlands, much like it did with Aruba back in 1986. The split up will continue to keep the BES islands (Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba) as special municipalities (bijzondere gemeenten) of The Netherlands.

During the creation of the ARRL's first post war (WWII) DXCC Countries List the Netherlands West Indies (PJ) was one DXCC entity, which included the islands of Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Saba, St. Eustatius and Sint Maarten. During the late 40's and early 50's these islands were forbidden radio communications between their amateur stations and amateur stations of other countries. The ban was lifted on March 11, 1952.

In 1954 The Netherlands advanced the Netherlands West Indies from a colonial territory to a domestic autonomy within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, which was the beginning of the Netherland Antilles. The May 1955 issue of QST Magazine (page 152) announced the recognition of two DXCC entities within the Netherland Antilles, which was effective July 1, 1955, but with a starting date back dated to November 15, 1945 for DXCC credit purposes. During this time period there was not a set distance rule but rather a "does it have adequate geographical separation from a parent nation" rule. So then there were two DXCC entities. One in South America which at the time included Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao and a second in North America including Saba, St. Eustatius and Sint Maarten.

On January 1, 1986 Aruba was constitutionally separated from the Netherland Antilles, shortly afterwards receiving the P4 prefix directly from the Netherlands and not the ITU.

So with the date now official as to the termination of The Netherlands Antilles DXers, and no doubt DXpeditioners, are probably asking how will all of this affect the DXCC program.

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Let me first state from this point on the below comments are the thoughts and opinions as seen by your editor (W3UR) as things stand as of today.

Once the Netherland Antilles are disbanded both of the current DXCC entities should then be deleted per DXCC rules. The Netherland Antilles were put on the DXCC Country list prior to many of the modern day rules, including the separation of the two and any measurable distance rule. From that point it is clear that Curacao (PJ2) and Sint Maarten (PJ7) would become two new DXCC Entities. This would leave the BES islands of Bonaire (PJ4), St. Eustatius (PJ5) and Saba (PJ6). Clearly the distance from the homeland, The Netherlands (PA), to the first island is obviously more than 350 kilometers. There by giving a third DXCC Entity of St. Eustatius and Saba. These two islands are too close to each other and must be one DXCC entity. However Bonaire is just barely over the 800 kilometer distance from PJ5 and PJ6 so it would then be a fourth new DXCC Entity.

Now the questions and the answers get a little tricky as to when these new DXCC countries will come on line because the ARRL DXCC Rules are clear on what and how "Political Entities" are added to the list. These rules affect Curacao and Sint Maarten. DXCC Rule 1a) asks if the potential new one is a member state of the UN. Neither one is and neither one is expected to be one. This is just like Aruba. Rule 1b is not likely to apply, in the near future and most likely not by 10-10-10. That being the ITU is doubtfully going to assign a new prefix in time for the expected date. Most likely rule 3c is the one that will get these two fledgling DXCC Entities on the list. The U.S. Department of State's "Dependencies and Areas of Special Sovereignty" list will most likely be updated around the birth date of these two new DXCC counters.

The BES islands should immediately be added to the DXCC list on 10/10/10 (exact time of day is yet to be determined) as they clearly met the DXCC criteria per the "Geographic Separation Entity" rule. That being the first set of islands (Saba and St. Eustatius) is 350 kilometer or more away from the parent country (rule 2bii) and a second island (Bonaire) being 350 kilometers from the parent country and just over 800 kilome-

ters from "any other island attached to that Parent" (rule 2biii).

Again I want to emphasize the last four paragraphs are the opinion of your editor and not the official word of the ARRL or DXCC.

The new DXCC Entities would be:

Curacao (PJ2)

Bonaire (PJ4)

St. Eustatius (PJ5) and Saba (PJ6)

Sint Maarten (PJ7)

An upcoming DXpedition to Sint Maarten (PJ7) is well underway say W8GEX, Joe and K9CT, Craig. The two co-leaders were on the much anticipated potentially new DXCC entity earlier this week securing locations for activity on CW and SSB from the eastern and western side of the island, allowing clear take offs to Europe and North America. They will be using IC-7600s, thanks to Icom, and Alpha will be supply the amps. Plans are to have an international team of twelve ops manning four stations around the clock. The group plans to begin activity on October 10, 2010 for a period of ten days. "Local government, business and ham community have provided wonderful cooperation and support for our operation" says Joe. The team is planning to have a Website, which will include more information.

In anticipation of one of the expected new DXCC counters, a four man team from America has announce their plans to be QRV from Curacao, a few weeks after the projected 10-10-10 date. Starting November 4th through November 11th K2TQC, Bill; N2MF, Brian; K2NV, Tony; and W1NG, Ken; plan a full week of serious non-contest operation from the Caribbean Contest Consortium (PJ2T) station, located at Signal Point (www.pj2t.org).

At that time of year, all these entities should be relatively easy to work from EI on all bands from 160 – 10m.

Yes, pile-ups undoubtedly, but doesn't that make this hobby/past-time of ours all the more interesting?

Sable Island.

Updating N0TG and group's planned operation from Sable Island, CY0, VE1RGB, Gary Bartlett, has been added to the team. `TG describes Gary as "a skilled CW operator, active competitor in contests, experienced in handling pileups, [with] a great technical background, an active member of the Halifax Amateur

Radio Club (HARC) and all round nice guy." And, he has operated from Sable before. Gary's home QTH is in Welling-ton, Nova Scotia. The callsigns for the operation will be CY0/AA4VK, CY0/AI5P, CY0/N0TG, CY0/VE1RGB and CY0/WA4DAN. Their preference is to QSL to the "ONLINE QSL REQUEST SERVICE".

See <http://www.cy0dxpedition.com> for all the up to date information.

Colombia & San Andreas Isl.

DL7VOG, Gerd, reports he is heading back to two Colombian Islands in the Caribbean starting in mid-November. He plans to start with a DXpedition as HK0GU/1 to the IOTA group SA-040, possibly Isla Pavitos, however "this is not confirmed yet". This will be from November 17th to 21st. For DXCC purposes this counts as mainland Colombia. Next stop will be to San Andres Island (NA-033) as HK0GU.

This is a separate DXCC Entity from Colombia. The dates for this one will be from November 21st to December 2nd or 3rd. Gerd plans to use an IC-706MK2G and an HF9VX as well as a "homebrew Inverted L" on a 15 meter high fiberglass pole for 160 meters. He prefers CW and RTTY and plans to participate in the CQ World Wide CW DX Contest.

Plans are to post his logs on his Web pages - www.qslnet.de/hk0gu or www.qsl.net/hk0gu. QSL via DL7VOG either via the DARC QSL bureau or direct. You can also request a bureau card via an email request to qsl at dl7vog.de.

Spratly Islands.

As briefly mentioned in the last issue of 'HF Happenings' plans for the upcoming DXpedition to the Spratly Islands are well under way and as time of press, all necessary licences are already in hand. DX0DX is planned for the Spratly Islands for January, 2011. Team leader VK3FY, Chris Dimitrijevic, has just returned to Australia from the Philippines where he had "high-level discussions" related to the planned operation. One meeting was with the Municipal Mayor of Paga-Asa, Thitu Island, where the operation would be. He also met with the Mayor-Designate, who takes office in September. The current Mayor will become Vice Mayor at that transition. Chris also talked with military authorities and officials from the Philippines' IARU society, PARA, which he says strongly supports the expedition.

The Spratlys are claimed by several re-

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gional countries. In recent years China has increasingly strongly asserted its claims to control of the South China Sea area with arrests of over 400 fishermen in the last year and other naval/military shows of force.

Chris says the next few months will be extremely busy making arrangements for supplies, logistics, customs clearances and finalizing sponsorship and funding support. A multi-national team of 30 hams will have 10 HF stations on the air, four on CW, four on SSB and two on RTTY, plus VHF-UHF stations on 6, 2, 70cm and 23 cm.

<http://www.dx0dx.net> for regular updates.

Tristan da Cunha.

ARRL DXCC Entity ZD9 consists of the islands of Tristan da Cunha, Inaccessible, Middle, Nightingale, Stoltenhoff and Gough. Tristan da Cunha has a permanent population (200-300) and over the years several have been active ZD9's. The other islands are uninhabited. During 2009 there was no activity from ZD9. ZS1LF (ex ZR1JON), John, is heading to Gough Island (AF-030) this September for a one year work assignment as the team leader and radio technician. For those who are participating in the CQ Magazine's CQ DX Field Award Gough Island is the only island located in the IE Field. This will be his second time to the remote island. He is brand new to HF and has no experience on HF. John plans to be QRV in his spare time as ZD9GI. Activity is not expected until after the SA Agulhas drops off the team and their supplies. This will most likely be sometime in October. He will have a TS-480, an amplifier and dipoles. Due to the concerns of the birds yagi antennas are not permitted. (Editor's note: If someone will do a serious study of yagi antennas and the effects of birds and do a write up on this subject I am sure we can get this published in a well known Amateur Radio magazine!) Plans are to operate on frequencies between 1.8 and 28 MHz, usually "after official working hours and weekends".

Initially he will be on SSB only and then afterwards on the digital modes. ZS1A (ex ZS6JHS), Johan Sevenster, will be the QSL manager.

His address is: 2 Roozeboom Str, de Bron, Bellville 7530, SOUTH AFRICA.

Mauritius & Rodrigues.

IZ4AKS, Giorgio, is planning a holiday

operation from both Mauritius and Rodrigues Islands, starting later this month. The main activity will be as 3B9/IZ4AKS on Rodrigues (AF-017) between August 28th and September 4th. Listen for him on 7 through 28 MHz in his spare time. He will be using an FT-897D running 100 watts into a vertical on the beach. Look for him to be QRV as 3B8/IZ4AKS from Mauritius (AF-049) a day or two before and after his operation from 3B9. More details are expected in the coming days.

Vanuatu.

Four Australian Amateur Radio ops are heading to Port Vila, Efate Island (OC-035), Vanuatu for activity as YJ0VK from about 0000Z August 27th to 0100Z September 2nd. Plans are to have fun as they operate two 100 watt stations as much as possible, trying to work as many people as possible. They will be using verticals and dipoles. VK3QB, Chris (team leader); VK2CA, Allan; VK3HJ, Luke; and VK3CBV, Benton; will be QRV as YJ0VK on 1.8 through 28 MHz with a focus on 30, 17 and 12 meters. They have a Website at <http://yj0vk.vkham.com/>. They hope to be able to update their online logs at least once a day, depending on Internet availability. QSL via VK2CA, via the bureau, direct and LoTW.

Niue.

A multi-national team has announced plans to go to Niue Island (ZK2) and then Norfolk Island (VK9N) during late November and early December. First it will be ZK2AA from November 20th to December 3rd. Plans are to have four rigs with a focus on Europe with an emphasis on 1.8 through 10 MHz, as well as 17 and 24 MHz and CW and RTTY. Next they will be operating from Norfolk, no call mentioned, from December 5th to 12th, with the same focus and emphasis. They are planning to have a Web site. QSL via PA3LEO.

Togo.

5V7TT in Togo will be October 10-23, active on 160-10M CW, SSB and RTTY.

The Mediterraneo DX Club Headquarters' operators I1HJT, I2YSB, IK1AOD, IK2CIO, IK2CKR, IK2DIA and IK2HKT will run the radios. Target frequencies are 28025, 24895, 21025, 18075, 14025, 10106, 7005, 3505 and 1822 on CW. On SSB it's 28495, 24945, 21295, 18145, 14195, 7056/7180 and 3780. On RTTY look for 5V7TT on 28080, 24920, 21080, 18103, 14080, 10140 and 7040. IK7JWY (engarturodaprire at libero.it), Art, will be a pilot station. QSL direct only, to I2YSB, Silvano Borsa, Viale Capettini 1, 27036 Mortara, Italy. They have a Web page at www.i2ysb.com.

Starting August 23rd PA1FJ plans to be on from Kythira Island (**EU-113**) as SV8/PA1JF/p on 20, 15 and 10 meters SSB. He'll be there until August 30th. QSL via PA1FJ.

VO2/NF6J, Juergen, will go to Battle Island, **NA-044**, to operate September 3-10. He plans to be on 30, 20, 17, 15 and 12, CW only. QSL direct or bureau to NF6J.

MM0SCG is the call for an operation starting September 25th from **EU-123**, Isle of Arran off southwest Scotland. The Sands Contest Group and Working-ton Radio Club will be joined by EI6IZ to pull this one off. They plan to be on HF and VHF SSB, CW and digital.

9M6XRO, 9M6DXX, 9W6AMC, 9W6LEE and G3USR plan to activate the rare IOTA island of Pulau Sebatik (**OC-295**), East Malaysia from September 24 to 27 inclusive. They will be QRV on 3.5 through 28 MHz with a focus on 40 through 15 meters. Plans are to have two stations with amplifiers into a HexBeam or verticals elevated above the ocean. Listen for 9M6XRO/P on CW and 9M6DXX/P on Phone. Plans are to have both stations activated simultaneously during each of the European and American openings. "OC-295 has only been claimed by 14.2% of IOTA participants, having been activated just once before, in July 2006", says 9M6DXX, Steve. QSL



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both 9M6XRO/p and 9M6DXX/p via M0URX either direct, via the RSGB QSL bureau, or LoTW. M0URX has a Web-page with more details and an online "QSL request form" at www.m0urx.com/sebatik.html.

Brazilian ops PY6HD, PY6RT, PY6AWU, PY6KY, PY7GK and PY2JY plan to operate from Morro de Sao Paulo and Tinhare Island (**SA-080**) with special call ZZ6Z from September 3-7. "The Brazilian Navy schedule could affect the dates." Activity is planned for 3.5 through 28 MHz on CW and SSB. Plans are to post their logs to Club Log, a week after the operation, at <http://www.clublog.org/logsearch/ZZ6Z>. More details about this operation can be found at www.qrz.com/db/ZZ6Z/. QSL via PY6HD.

K6VVA/VE7, Rick, plans a trip to Quadra Island, **NA-091**, September 27-30, mostly CW with some SSB on 40-15. QSL via N6AWD. www.k6vva.com/iota/na091.

So there we have it, the run down of most of the planned DXpeditions to keep you all busy with until the next issue. The summer can be a bit 'relaxed' at times and not many of the large scale DXpeditions are usually planned for this time of year. Instead we seem to see more 'smaller' operations, a brief day trip to an IOTA, a short weekend operation from some holiday QTH or even a mid-week mini DXpedition seems to be the norm lately. Despite this, these guys often pop up out of no-where and no prior notification has been released. Is this due to the relatively cheap air-fares or last minute deals? Do guys look for a get-a-way excuse seeing that schools are off and are looking for some 'quiet time'?

For us, it is a chance to look for that missing band slot as many of these operations tend to concentrate on the higher bands. Or better still, why don't YOU head off somewhere on your next day off, who knows you may be the one to give that unexpected band slot to someone. Until next issue, start shaking the cobwebs from your low band antennas and get them back into shape, it's going to be a great low-band season. You have been warned. Vy 73 de Dave EI9FBB

As always, my sincere thanks to Bernie, W3UR who graciously allows information to be extracted from his valuable pages of the Daily DX.

SEARG Visit Howth Martello Tower

On Saturday the 17th of July last, Francis EI5GOB, John EI8JA, Mark EI4FNB, Paul EI3ENB and Mark EI7IS visited the Vintage Radio Museum at Howth Martello Tower.

The tower itself is steeped in history. Built in 1805 and modelled on a tower in Martello Point, Corsica, it is one of a number of similar structures around the Irish coastline. It's original purpose was to defend against an expected attack from Napoleon and as such these towers occupied strategic vantage points around the country.

In 1852 the first submarine cable connecting Britain and Ireland came ashore at the Martello tower but was operational for only 3 days and was later replaced in 1854. From the radio perspective and probably due to its strategic location, the Martello tower at Howth has a significant history associated with it as it was used by the American radio pioneer Lee De Forest in 1903 to demonstrate his wireless telegraph system to the British post office where successful two way communications were established with another of De Forests stations in Holyhead.

Two years later in 1905, the Marconi company established a receiving station at the Martello tower while the telegraph ship Monarch sailed to various locations in the Irish Sea transmitting signals which were analysed and measured at Howth while trying various antenna and earth configurations.

The museum pays tribute to the historic location and displays a wide range of transmitters, receivers and televisions etc. from the very early days of wireless right up to modern times.

The museum hosts a fascinating collection of items such as Morse sounders, crystal sets and sections of submarine cable to name but a very few. The exhibits also include gramophones, records, documents, posters and very old advertising material. Some items are very rare and have in themselves a significant and interesting history associated with them. The museum is not a commercial venture and is run purely for the purpose of sharing this great collection to the public.

The visit was made all the more enjoyable by Pat Herbert (the museum curator) and Tony Breathnach, EI5EM (who runs the amateur station EI0MAR from the tower). Pat and Tony gave their guests a very warm welcome.

The museum is very easy to get to using public transport and a visit is highly recommended.



On the roof of the Martello tower.

Left to right - Paul EI3ENB, Mark EI7IS, Francis EI5GOB, Mark EI4FNB, John EI8JA



Left to right - Paul EI3ENB, Pat Herbert (Museum Curator), Mark EI7IS, Francis EI5GOB, Mark EI4FNB, Tony EI5EM

IRTS Honours Herbie Graham GI6JPO

At the Irish Radio Transmitters Society AGM in Dundalk on 25 April 2010, the President, Paul Martin EI2CA presented the Pat Conway Cup to Herbie Graham GI6JPO.

Lough Erne ARC had recommended to IRTS that it consider Herbie GI6JPO for one of its awards for service to Amateur Radio.

Announcing the Conway Cup, Peter Grant EI4HX, Awards Manager, joked that this Cup was the tallest on the table, and it would go north this year. He summarised the reasons as that Herbie was well known, north and south, and had been very involved in the work of his club, its rally and amateur radio for many years.

Indeed, he declared, Lough Erne ARC "was Herbie Graham"

Background – from LEARC Nomination

30 years ago, ever keen to make, mend and experiment, Herbie Graham enrolled on an RAE course at Fermanagh Technical College. He thus added radio and antennas to his interests, often more in construction than operating. One recent construction is an elegantly engineered high-wattage ATU with home-built matched variable capacitors and worm-driven inductors. His projects always feature good value for money.

Many still rely on Herbie for help in the construction and repair of radio and computer equipment.

However, the Club bases this nomination on the ways that Herbie has used skills and self-learning in good service to Lough Erne Amateur Club and amateur radio's wider community. Below are some examples.

Enniskillen Rally

From the first in April 1982, Enniskillen Rally became a major meeting place for radio amateurs and experimenters, north and south. For almost all those years, Herbie was sure to be in the middle of the work, long before, at and after these events. He was not alone, but at times others were few. The Rallies built up funds which the Club hoped to spend on amateur radio. Aspirations included a Fermanagh Repeater.

Club Treasurer and Fermanagh Repeater

Herbie became Club Treasurer in 2005, bringing good order to this key role with



IRTS President Paul EI2CA presents the Pat Conway Cup to Herbie GI6JPO

accounts, rally records and AGM reports. Financially confident, the 2008 AGM agreed a budget for a Repeater project (and a HF field station project).

Herbie took the lead roles, financial and technical. By AGM 2009 the Fermanagh Repeater had been active for some months.

Herbie's Treasurer's report, adopted with acclaim, included the financial details of the Club's first ever big project, completed in good time and within budget.

On the technical side, Herbie puts first the help given by Peter EI4JR, John GI4BWM and Raymond GI8RLE. A measure of the profit made for his club was the large attendance by Repeater Keepers and others at the Club's meeting in February, and the vote of thanks to him at LEARC's March general meeting – at which was mooted this recommendation by the Club to IRTS that Herbie be considered for an Award.

SHARE, Rally & Foundation Course SHARE, near Lisnaskea is Ireland's largest residential centre. 15,000 visitors per year, of all ages, enjoy activities, indoor, outdoor, ashore and afloat, and that now include amateur radio.

Herbie had also given good service to SHARE and initiated the Club's very valuable relationship with SHARE. As hotel costs rocketed, the Rally moved to SHARE and its excellent Arena. It was held there for its fourth time in

April 2010.

Next was the Club's course and examination project at SHARE that yielded 18 new Foundation licensees.

Herbie handled the arrangements, examination invigilation and finances with typical good value, fairness and within budget. Herbie is central to a SHARE–LEARC partnership that is set to do great good for amateur radio.

Conclusion

Lough Erne ARC's achievements as a Club merited the RSGB's Regional Club of the Year Award. This is an achievement by a whole team of members working together with enthusiasm, energy and efficiency. Among them, and involved in every activity cited in that award application, was Herbie Graham.

IRTS Awards are for individuals who give good service to amateur radio. Herbie is exactly such an individual with a record of steadfast service to his club and to amateur radio for over a quarter century. Moreover, his special kind of service helped build for his club a renewed reputation for well managed projects, technical and training, and an organised progressive approach, measured by a near four-fold increase in membership.

For more information contact

Michael Clarke, MI5MTC Chairman, Lough Erne ARC. Tel: 048/028-6862-1436. mi5mtc@learc.eu

EI50UN celebrates 50 years of Irish UN peacekeeping duties

Friday 23rd of July saw the Irish Army celebrate fifty years of UN peacekeeping service.

It was in July 1960 that the first contingent of Irish troops was airlifted by giant Globemaster aircraft to the former Belgian Congo.

Twenty-six Irish soldiers died in the Congo including nine in November of that year in the Niemba ambush.

By a strange coincidence, news of the ambush was relayed by amateur radio to the chief of staff of the army, General Seán McEoin. You can read this intriguing amateur radio story this by visiting www.ei0mar.org and clicking the Niemba ambush link at the bottom of the page.

The Heathkit Apache transmitter used in relaying the sad news was donated to the vintage radio museum in Howth and was exhibited in Baldonnell for the event.

Howth Martello Radio Group members Tony EI5EM, Joe EI4FV, Eamonn EI2CHB, Joe EI2JZ and Pat Herbert, curator of the vintage radio museum attended the ceremony and the events taking place afterwards.

The highlight of the day was visiting the tented radio shack where the special call-sign EI50UN was being activated for the occasion, organised by Pat EI5IF. Brian (EI4GL) and Paddy (EI1DG) were also in the shack.



Tony EI5EM tried one of the army thigh-mounted straight keys to put out a CQ and had several nice QSOs using the EI50UN call. Unfortunately, time did not

allow for working all the stations calling in the pileup.

The Hurdy Gurdy Museum FACEBOOK site has photographs of the day's events. The Heathkit Apache will be back on display in Howth shortly.

The vintage radio museum is open daily until the end of October from 11 until 4 daily. The museum website is www.ei0mar.org.

de Tony EI5EM/EI0MAR



Tony EI5EM, Joe EI4FV, Brian EI4GL, Joe EI2JZ, Tom Fagan, Vintage Wireless Soc., Pat Herbert Museum Curator and Eamonn EI2CHB.

Amsat - Arklow School Selected.

In October last the IRTS news carried an item from Amsat inviting teachers to submit students' science work to be considered for carrying on board the next satellite to be launched later this year.

Pádraig EI7GK, a science teacher in Gaelcholáiste na Mara, Arklow, submitted work from 6 of his students.

All have been selected and their work will "fly" on board the satellite Gaelcholáiste na Mara is the only school in EI to be selected.

Other schools selected are in the U.S. Canada, UK etc. In Gaelcholáiste na Mara all subjects including Science are thought through Irish so an English translation had to accompany the original work.



**Gaelcholáiste na Mara
Arklow, Ireland**

Left to Right. Faye, Sarah Kate, Ailbe, Aife, Lúsaí, Oscar

Faye: Periscope Project, Sarah Kate: Magnetic Field Project, Ailbe: Creat NaCl, Aife: Ohm's Law & Dissolved Solids in H₂O, Lúsaí: Periscope Project, & Oscar: Magnetic Field.



Above the Horizon with Charlie Carolan EI8JB

Apologies for the deadline for my ramblings for the previous issue of Echo Ireland. I have been quite busy with unfortunately not much time for activities inside the shack.

It is worth mentioning at this time that there is a live Oscar Satellite Status page available at <http://oscar.dcarr.org>. This site allows you to update any active Satellite you Tx/Rx with current mode data, you can also enter calls of the station you heard/worked onto the page. Some satellites have multiple modes available for use and a control team to manage the operational schedule as it is always nice to confirm the mode you hope to use on the bird is the one you are set configured for J

Similar to the above is the AO-7 Log & Resource Site at <http://www.planetemily.com/ao7/main.php>. The site is up to date with information and goes into some of AO-7 history etc. You can also use this site to log QSO's with stations you have heard or worked on AO-7.

Updated Satellite News

AO-51 (Echo)

Currently this Satellite is only in operation in the V/u mode which is 2m uplink & 70cm downlink, Due to poor battery condition AO-51 will be off while in Eclipse. Normally this satellite would have a very active mode schedule as per the Control Team however due to the technical issue to conserve power its only active mode when going to press was V/u only with the 67Hz tone for access.

Until further notice the AO-51 schedule will remain:

FM Repeater, V/U

Uplink: 145.920 MHz FM, PL 67Hz

Downlink: 435.300 MHz FM

The 67Hz PL tone is required to activate the repeater, which will run unscelched for two minutes after hearing a valid tone. Within that two minute period, no tone is required.

SO-67 Sumbandila Sat has had a lot of teething problems since it reached orbit and it has been taken out of full time Amateur use. It is hoped that the issues can be resolved and returned to full Amateur service although at this point it is being turned on in phases while undergo-

ing testing and if all goes well it will be back in service to the Amateur community soon.

GO-30 - The GO-30 project has been deemed a success and as GO-30 signals have been degrading over the past number years it is now deemed that the project has reached completion. Tracking software once updated may not cater for any further passes of this bird.

ISS - The ARISS Amateur Radio on-board the International Space Station has been very active with some crew finding time to work FM Simplex.

The Packet APRS system has been quite active recently also.

145.825 Simplex Digi
145.800 & 145.825 SSTV
145.200 Uplink & 437.800 Downlink,
Crossband Repeater.

Oscar News Archive

OSCAR News is the official journal of the Amateur Radio satellite organization **AMSAT-UK** and all 47 issues published from 2000-2009 are now available on CD.

Containing more than 2000 pages of information about amateur satellites ranging from homebrew electronics projects to scientific papers, this archive offers an intriguing insight into the development of amateur radio satellites during a fast moving decade.

More details can be found on the Amsat UK website, including a link for purchasing the CD.

AMSAT-UK: <http://www.uk.amsat.org/>

FUNcube Frequencies Announced

The AMSAT-UK **FUNcube** CubeSat project is intended for launch into a Low Earth Orbit (LEO). In addition to the satellite, the project includes the development of simple receivers and display software for use in schools.

FUNcube is designed to carry a 70cm to 2m linear transponder for SSB/CW communications along with a beacon carrying telemetry and data for educational demonstrations from space. It is expected to be completed by Autumn 2010.

A submission for frequencies was made to the IARU Amateur Satellite Frequency Coordination panel who has announced

these coordinated frequencies for FUNcube.

Inverting linear transponder:

Uplink 435.080 – 435.060 MHz

Downlink 145.960 – 145.980 MHz

Beacon: 145.955 MHz CW and BPSK

Further information on this exciting UK Amateur satellite project can be found on the FUNcube website.

FUNcube: <http://www.funcube.org.uk/>

Satellite Launches

Imagine a satellite the size of a pizza box built, launched and controlled by students from a college room.

Sounds crazy, but this is what a team of engineering students have done.

Around 40 under-graduates studying in top engineering colleges of Bangalore and Hyderabad have teamed up to put together India's smallest (10 cm x 10 cm x 13.5 cm) and lightest satellite. Christened **STUDSAT** (Student Satellite), this 'artificial moon' will send high resolution pictures to undertake vegetation studies.

'STUDSAT', designed and developed by a consortium of seven engineering colleges from Bangalore and Hyderabad, weighs less than one kg with a volume of



1.1 litres and has been designed to operate in a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) at an altitude of 680 km."

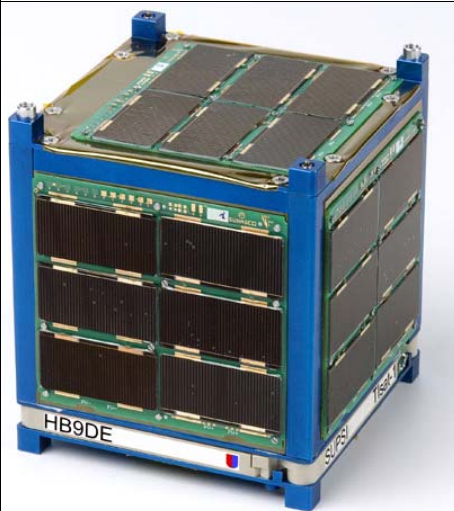
The payload of the satellite consists of a CMOS camera capable of capturing images with a ground resolution of approximately 90 metres. The satellite will send the image and telemetry data from the orbit to the ground station."

The Indian student Amateur Radio satellite **StudSat** has launched and reception reports of the 437.861 MHz CW beacon would be appreciated. Reports can be sent to Secretary and Station in Charge, Mani, **VU2WMY** at email address vu2wmy_mani@yahoo.com

TISAT-1 launch

TIsat-1 is a 1 kg CubeSat built by students and staff at University of Applied Sciences of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI). TIsat-1 uses amateur radio frequencies and has CW and data beacons.

TIsat-1 communicates over amateur radio frequencies as most CubeSats do. Frequencies were coordinated with the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). The coordination process was completed in November 2008. TIsat-1 is on 437.305 MHz for downlink (beacon, telemetry)



In the telemetry frames TIsat-1 will periodically identify himself with his unique callsign **HB9DE** granted by the Swiss Federal Office for Communication (BAKOM)

TIsat-1 carries two radio devices: a beacon transmitter (entirely developed at SUPSI-DTI) and a commercial FM transceiver. The two devices alternate for downlink on even and odd orbits, while an uplink "listen state" is periodically activated via the FM transceiver, regardless of the orbit number.

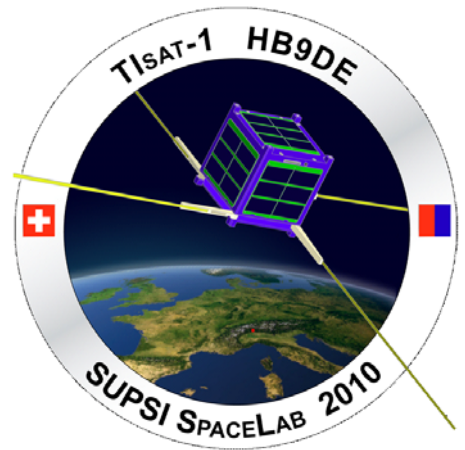
For energy balance issues, during eclipse TIsat-1 communicates less data less frequently, solely using the the FM channel.

Beacon 437.305MHz; $\pm 2\text{kHz}$ over $[-20, +70^\circ]$; 400mW.

The device is qualified to transmit plain Morse characters and NRZ or Manchester encoded binary data at different baud rates.

During early days of the mission the satellite will use slow data rate (i.e. Morse at 15 words-per-minute, WPM), increasing with time up to 110 WPM for enhanced data throughput.

After ten (Earth's) days the data rate will fall back again to 15 WPM and the sequence is restarted.



FM Transceiver 300/500 mW; ALINCO DJC-6.

The FM transceiver is interfaced to both processors of the On Board Computer (OBC). The processors provide binary FSK, AM, PSK (NRZ/Manchester) and plain Morse modulation and demodulation in firmware.

An integrated DTMF transceiver is also available as alternate communication channel.

That concludes the current pass of Above the Horizon. Hope to meet you on the birds.

73

Charlie Carolan EI8JB

Examination Results

The results of the Theory Examination for the Amateur Station Licence examination held in Limerick and Dublin on 7th July were issued very quickly. Of the 21 candidates who sat the examination 12 qualified for the HAREC qualification, a pass rate of 57%. This brings to 220 the total number that have sat the eleven examinations that have been held since IRTS took over responsibility for organising, setting and correcting the theory examination in May 2005.

Of these 130 or 60% qualified for the award of the HAREC qualification.

The cooperative arrangement between ComReg and IRTS on the examination has worked extremely well and is one of the factors that has contributed to the excellent working relationship that exists between the Society and ComReg

Congratulations to the successful candidates and welcome to the airwaves to all who have been issued with their new callsigns. Good luck to those who will sit the examination again in October.



Four Radio Amateurs in the Malone Family

Brothers Dr. John Malone EI8GE (extreme left) and Frank Malone EI6EF (extreme right). John Malone Junior EI4EUB son of EI8GE (second left) and David Malone nephew of EI8GE and EI6EF (third from left). Pictured at 60th birthday of EI8GE.

IOTA Contest 2010

Last weekend's IOTA contest had plenty of support from EI stations, both from the mainland and from offshore islands. Offshore islands stations heard were EJ3Z (Shannon Basin Radio Club) on Inisboffin, EJ1DD (Dalkey Island Contest Group) on Clare Island, EJ4II on the Saltees and EI/SQ7JT on the Blaskets. Many EI stations operated from the mainland, including EI/WG5N, EI2JD, EI5DI, EI6JK, EI6KC, EI7GY, EI7JN, EI8JX and EI9HQ. The higher bands - 10 and 15 metres - were particularly disappointing this year, with 10 metres barely opening during the contest and only brief openings on 15 metres. However the other bands seemed to be in good shape, so good scores can be expected.



Worked All Ireland Award Scheme

The W.A.I. awards are open to all amateurs and short wave listeners throughout, the world, who wish to participate. Membership of any specific organisation is not pre-requisite.

The aim of the awards scheme is:

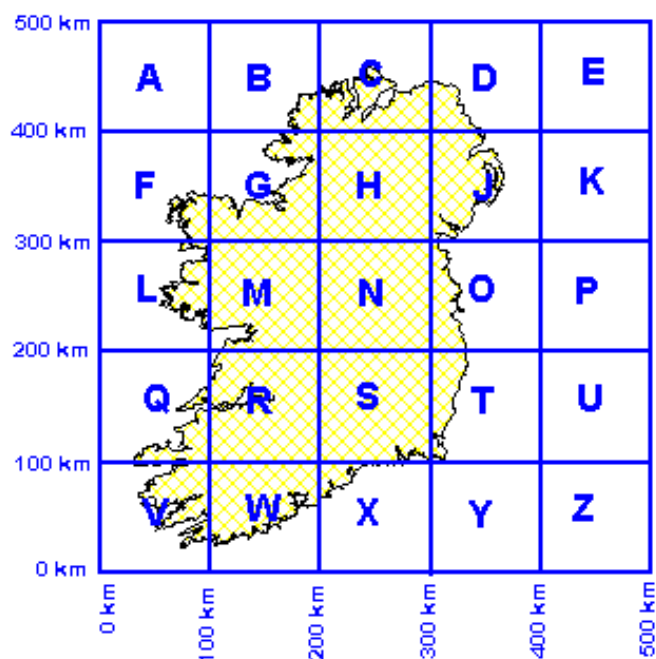
To expand the geographical knowledge of Ireland and its off-shore islands.

- 1) To encourage activity in general and promote mobile and portable expedition activity on both LF and VHF bands.
- 2) To encourage amateurs and Shortwave Listeners to improve their operating skills by participating in or running W.A.I. Nets.

Deriving W.A.I. Areas

The Worked all Ireland based on the squares of the Irish National Grid as shown in fig 1. The map of Ireland is divided into large squares 100 km x 100 km.

These squares are designated by a single letter starting with the letter "A" in the northwest corner and ending with the letter "Z" in the southeasterly corner, the letter "I" is omitted.



Irish National Grid 100 km Squares

Fig 1

In the national grid, Ireland is described as a square 500 km by 500 km. This is further divided into 25 100km squares, each of which are given a letter.

These are known as "large" squares.

Each 100 km x 100 km large square designated by a letter is further subdivided by 100 smaller 10 km x 10 km squares as shown in fig.2

		Easting (1st Digit)												
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0		
Northing (2nd Digit)	9	09	19	29	39	49	59	69	79	89	99	9	Northing (2nd Digit)	
	8	08	18	28	38	48	58	68	78	88	98	8		
	7	07	17	27	37	47	57	67	77	87	97	7		
	6	06	16	26	36	46	56	66	76	86	96	6		
	5	05	15	25	35	45	55	65	75	85	95	5		
	4	04	14	24	34	44	54	64	74	84	94	4		
	3	03	13	23	33	43	53	63	73	83	93	3		
	2	02	12	22	32	42	52	62	72	82	92	2		
	1	01	11	21	31	41	51	61	71	81	91	1		
	0	00	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	0		
		Easting (1st Digit)												

Fig 2

A 100 km x 100 km large square subdivided into smaller 10 km x 10 km squares which constitute the W.A.I. area.

To derive a W.A.I. area from an Ordnance Survey Map, firstly identify the large square in which the area lies.

This will give the first letter.

Next take the "Easting", taken from the horizontal axis, which is the first figure of the area. The second figure is derived from the "Northing" which is the figure taken from the vertical axis.

It is in this order that all W.A.I. areas are derived. An easy way to remember the order is to think "in the door and up the stairs". This means go horizontal, in the door, for the first figure and then take the vertical line, "up the stairs", for the second figure.

The 10 x 10 km squares could be broken down further to give a very accurate location, and six figure grid reference but this is not required for WAI purposes.

The best maps to determine W.A.I. areas are the Discovery Series 1:50,000 scale. These maps will give enough detail to highlight very small areas. It is important to note that the GPS is not accurate enough to highlight small areas.

The W.A.I. Book.

The W.A.I. book and its unique number is your personal record and not transferable to another call sign.

All areas worked are unique to the callsign listed to the book.

On receipt of a W.A.I. book, you become a life member of the group.

Entries should consist of Date, Callsign and Band in the spaces provided (see fig 3).

The W.A.I. Book lists the areas by county.

At the top of the page the county name is shown, followed by the total number of W.A.I. areas within the county and National Grid Squares Covered see Fig 3

ANTRIM

Total Number of Areas 50
NGR Squares Covered C-D-H-J
Province Ulster

Area	Description	Date	Callsign	Band
C82 (P)	SM			
C83 (P)	Portrush			
C84	Portrush (Golf course - Ramore Head - The Skerries			

Fig 3 - A typical listing from a W.A.I. Book

The W.A.I. book lists the areas contained in each county in the form of a logbook as shown in fig 3.

There are, in fact, a total of 1452 areas listed but there is always a possibility of more in the form of small (SM) areas yet to be discovered and confirmed.

The W.A.I awards management reserve the right to include or disregard new areas after due investigation of same.

Part Areas (P)

The Area is followed by (P) indicates that Part of the W.A.I. area lies in one county and also in an adjoining County.

Ensure that the county of operation is given along with the area at all times. Where there is such an occurrence, the area will also be listed under the heading of the adjoining county also e. g. O04 is located in Co. Dublin and Co. Meath so it is therefore essential to give the county as well as the area at all times.

W.A.I net operation will be discussed later.

Small Areas (SM)

Very small areas (some being only 100 yards or less) are listed as (SM). In the case of operation from small areas the operator and the feed point to the antenna must be in the area. Obviously it may not be practical for the whole antenna to be in the area due to size constraints. Care should be taken in the interpretation of small areas from small scale maps.

The GPS is not considered accurate enough to determine position in a small area and should be backed by the use of an Ordnance Survey map.

It is hoped that the "spirit of achievement" will prevail to research and activate Small Areas.

Islands

An Island is defined as an offshore piece of land, not connected to the mainland by bridge or causeway and surrounded by tidal water. This precludes such places as Achill Island, Co. Mayo, and Gorumna Island, or Mutton Island, Co. Galway that are examples of Islands connected to the mainland by bridge or causeway.

Operation from Inland Waterways.

Operation from inland waterways is permitted as defined by the appropriate EI or GI license conditions. Please note that operation on inland waterways is /M and >>NOT<< /MM.

Islands located on lakes or inland waterways do not count for the Islands award.

Publicity

Any advanced plans to operate mobile or portable activations should be passed to EI5DD who will forward them to the IRTS Radio News services in order to maximise interest in your activity. Take time to ascertain your W.A.I. area so that other operators may derive benefit.

Put your W.A.I. area on your QSL cards.

If you running an activity, give out your W.A.I. area as part of your station information.

If you are a member of a Radio Group see if you can organise an activity that will include W.A.I. operation.

Operation in W.A.I. Nets - Basic Rules and Etiquette.

- 1) All nets are controlled by one station acting as net controller, who may occasionally appoint backup controllers in the event of difficulty copying a station.
 - 2) Only call into the net when the net controller asks for check-ins.
 - 3) Ensure that you are netted to the controller's frequency. This is very important at all times.
 - 4) Do not give your W.A.I. information when you are working a mobile being run down the net. The mobile is only interested in being run down the net and exchanging reports before moving on to the next area.
 - 5) Always repeat back the report given to you by the station you are working. This is a check that you have received your report accurately and ensures that the contact is valid.
 - 6) The report has no minimum value. Signal reports can never be zero!
 - 7) Always take a list of the stations in the net and know which station to pass transmission to after working the mobile being run down the net.
 - 8) Do not take offence if the net controller misses you in error. Mistakes happen. Bear in mind you may be asked to take over net control at some stage.
 - 9) Never break in while a mobile is being passed down the net. The net controller will ask for check-ins at the end of the list before the mobile moves on.
 - 10) Do not ask the mobile station about the area. The net controller will give his details at the beginning and end of the list
 - 11) Mobiles always take precedence over fixed stations, especially those who give prior notice of their intended activity. Portable stations may also take precedence depending on their situation.
 - 12) Each net member is allowed two attempts at exchanging reports with the station being run down the net. If this proves unsuccessful the station will be allowed a further 2 attempts at the end of the list.
 - 13) Where there is a gap in mobile activity, the net controller will pass down the list to allow members to make calls to other net members. Two calls are allowed to ensure everyone gets an opportunity. This will be taken in order from the list of members participating in the net. If you do not wish to make any calls give your W.A.I. details in case other members wish to work you or for the benefit of SWL's.
 - 14) NEVER WASTE TIME WITH IDLE CHAT unless all the other net members have worked the stations they wish to call. Weaker mobile stations may be masked by such practices.
- Above all, keep exchanges short and to the point.

(Continued on page 18)

(Continued from page 17)

Remember that W.A.I. is a hobby designed to give enjoyment to all. Be prepared to do a spell of net control, log for mobiles, and use your local knowledge to assist and navigate mobiles into tricky areas

Practical Operation

If going mobile, plan your route beforehand and give the Net Controller some idea of your route on the first call in.

Do not take the readout from the GPS as the definitive location. Check it on the map. Ensure you are in the stated area before calling in.

When operating from small areas (SM) confirm you are in the square with the use of an O.S. Map

If a net is running down a list of members and you wish, as a mobile operator, to call in, say "MOBLE MOBILE" to draw attention to the fact that you are now in your area and ready to be run down the net.

All activity should >>cease immediately<< and allow the mobile in. If the net controller does not hear you then somebody in the net will.

Note that it is considered very poor operating practice to leave a mobile on the side unless there are other mobiles being run down the list at the time.

If the net controller is having difficulty copying the mobile station; then a station that is hearing the mobile without difficulty can assume temporary control under adverse conditions.

To achieve a valid contact the station in question must repeat back the report he has been given without assistance.

It may be frustrating to witness the difficulty but the contact is not valid unless the contact has been repeated back verbatim. QSLs are not required so this is the only form of verification. Other participants in the net should avoid the temptation to repeat the report to get things moving on.

The net controller will give you the callsign, the county, and the locator of the station.

He will prompt you to call the mobile by giving your callsign the go ahead to transmit. All you have to do is give the report, for instance, in the format "you are 5 by 5" from EI#XYZ the mobile then replies with "QSL 5 by 5 you are 5 by 5 also" to which you reply QSL the 5 by 5 report or whatever has been given. Assuming you have copied it correctly, the net controller passes onto the next call on his list. If you have got it wrong the net controller will ask the mobile to repeat. If you still get it wrong you will be given an opportunity to give a call at the end of the list.

Short exchanges will allow the net to flow quickly and enable the mobile station to activate more areas as a result.

Idle chat may prevent the mobile from being heard.

If the mobile gets ignored too often, he will pull out and probably never bother activating areas again so it is necessary to give him priority.

The practice of driving to the point where four squares meet and then giving them out one after the other does not produce valid contacts. The accuracy of the GPS does not prove that one is actually just on the edge of a square or on the interface of 4 squares. One has to be inside the square to provide a

valid activation – not on the grid line if that is possible taken from a GPS. Such contacts may be deemed invalid if overheard by the awards manager or by a good net controller.

Suggested Net Frequencies

80 Metres	3.680 MHz
40 Metres	7.170 MHz,
20 Metres	14.265 MHz
15 Metres	21.317 MHz
10 Metres	28.655 MHz
2 Metres	145.350 MHz (FM)

Aids to Operating.

The Ordnance Survey Discovery Series maps with a scale of 1:50,000 provide an accurate method of determining position. The GPS can be useful whilst driving and operating from areas "on the run".

Bear in mind that one has to be more than just a few yards into the square when using the GPS as the accuracy is debatable unless using a military system.

Awards

There are several awards in the W.A.I. Scheme.

A W.A.I. book registered to your callsign is required unless otherwise stated.

Worked All Ireland Award is issued after fulfilling the basic requirements. These requirements differ between EI/GI operators and overseas operators as shown in the following table:

Award	EI/GI	Overseas	Counties	Islands
Basic	175	150	15(3 in GI)	1
Bronze	250	200	22(5 in GI)	3
Silver	420	350	32	6
Gold	600	500	32	9
Thousand	1,000	1,000	32	15
Ultimate	1,400	1,400	32	25

It is possible to claim the award in stages e.g. claim the basic award and then claim the endorsements for bronze, silver gold etc as you fulfill the criteria.

Islands award

The Islands award is issued for giving for working or activating 12 Islands for stations resident in EI/GI.

The award is issued to overseas stations who work 12 Islands. There are endorsements for every 10 Islands worked or activated up to a maximum of 52.

Overseas stations receive endorsements for every 10 Islands worked up to a maximum of 47.

For all awards involving Islands - An Island is defined as an offshore piece of land, not connected to the mainland by bridge or causeway and surrounded by tidal water. Artificial platforms do not count.

Activity Award.

This is awarded to mobile stations who activate 100 areas with endorsements for each subsequent 100 areas.

Book Holders Award

This is awarded for working 100 book numbers – endorsements are issued for each subsequent 100 book numbers to a maximum of 500.

Bear in mind that some members hold more than one W.A.I. numbered book and they could be a bonus to work.

Decade Award

Awarded for working the 100 two digit numbers associated with the W.A.I. areas e.g. 00 to 99. The numbers can be claimed irrespective of the large square letters.

All contacts must be made within the one year, commencing the first of January to the 31st of December of that particular year.

Ownership of A W.A.I. book is not a requirement.

All claims must be submitted on a computerised printout with the squares worked in ascending numerical order e.g.

D00, County, Callsign Worked, and Date.

W.A.I. Counties Award

Awarded for working all 32 counties of Ireland. Ownership of a W.A.I. book is not required. QSL cards are not required.

A log must be sent with counties listed in alphabetical order showing County, W.A.I. area, Callsign and date worked.

Certificate of Merit

This is issued for outstanding devotion to the cause of W.A.I.

This award is available for either fixed or mobile operators.

Rules for the Claiming W.A.I. award

- 1) Only QSOs made since the 1st of May 1995 will count towards the award.
- 2) Any band and any mode may be used. The award is issued to the callsign of the station being operated.
- 3) No credit may be claimed for contacts made under the callsign of another station.
- 4) For Mobile awards, the callsign given out by the mobile is the only one who can claim, irrespective of who is operating the equipment.
- 5) Contacts made via Repeater are not valid.
- 6) QSL card verification is not required for any of the W.A.I. Awards.
- 7) Mobile or portable stations may only activate one square at a time.
- 8) To claim any W.A.I. award submit your record book or a list of squares sorted in alphabetical and ascending order by county.

W.A.I. Books.

W.A.I. books may be obtained from:

Dave Moore,
Dooneen,
Carrigtwohill,
Co. Cork

The cost of the book is €10.00

Note that a W.A.I. Book is required to claim the awards.

Claims for Awards.

Claims for awards should be addressed to:

Tom Rea Awards Manager,
Bridge Street,
Headford,
Co. Galway.

Organising a W.A.I. Net

For starters it should be possible to QSY to 3.680 MHz after the Sunday IRTS News at Mid-day.

All that would be really required would be a small group to get things moving by exchanging their County and W.A.I. Area. One could easily glean at least 40 areas by organising this type of net. If there were a few mobile or portable stations calling in it would be an added bonus.

From here it may be possible to organise future activities either on midweek evenings or possible for the following week-end.

It only takes one or two operators to get the net moving.

Once 40 metres opens up to give National/UK coverage it will be possible to organise a net on 7.068 MHz on a regular basis.

It should be borne in mind that overseas stations are also interested in working W.A.I. areas.

Working an overseas station will count as points towards a book-holders award. If there is sufficient interest it would be possible to introduce an award for working 100 countries and endorsements thereafter.

Contact the IRTS news service if you intend to do a mobile run of W.A.I. area activations which should ensure plenty of interest.

It is possible that W.A.I. activity days could be organized in the not too distant future so do listen for updates via the IRTS News services.

Warning!

The W.A.I. Group draws your attention to the fact that some of the areas listed in the book may be difficult to activate. Other areas may be on private land. Where areas lie on private land, members are advised to seek permission to activate these areas.

Operating from some areas may require a good state of physical fitness or health.

The W.A.I. group does not take responsibility for damage to equipment, personal injury, or legal action resulting from the activation of a W.A.I. area, County, Island or any activity connected with the Award Scheme.

Acknowledgements

The worked all Ireland awards were inspired by the WAB awards scheme devised by the late John Morris G3ABG and are based on extensive work carried out by David Jones GI3KVD and the late Paddy McGill GM3MTH.

Tom Rea, EI2GP, and Steve Wright, EI5DD, took the original work, checked the areas, made additions and compiled the book to its present day format which is now printed and distributed by the IRTS.

The Galway VHF Group sponsors the Certificates and manages the awards.



Galway Regatta - AREN Operation - June 27th 2010

The Galway Regatta is run on an annual basis on the River Corrib. The event is based on a three lane race down a course of 1,200 metres. There are a large number of crews entering the water whilst others are leaving at the finish of their event. Sensible traffic control at the slips prevented accidents and also ensured that there are not too many crews located in the one area at any time- a recipe for disaster if tempers fray.

The event is run to strict time schedule which means that all areas have to be clued in and updated regularly to ensure smooth running.

Any delays result in total congestion which can result in accidents.

Tom, EI2GP, was located at the start line of the race and would advise when crews are leaving and heading down the course. At this point the operator on the slips ensures that boats do not row onto the course and also prevents the area becoming too congested at the same time. Steve, EI5DD was located at the finish line which is where the organisation and logistics of the event took place.



Message handling involved:

- 1) Passing information about crews who would not be taking part and therefore not taking to the water.
- 2) Crews who would be participating at a later stage as a result of winning their race and therefore entering a semi-final or final (information required to determine what time the boats would be going back on the water).
- 3) Calling for crews to row towards the start as quickly as possible.
- 4) Advising of any river traffic heading up the course.
- 5) Logging of accidents during the event and deployment of safety crews.

From 0900 there was a constant flow of information as crews were co-ordinated to a strict schedule in order to accommodate the number of races during the day. There were stiff breezes which affected some of the less experienced crews often blowing them off course and into reeds. Rescue crews were quite busy under the circumstances. The water level of the Corrib was also lower than usual, due to the recent dry spells.

A couple of crews ran aground and had to be towed off the rocks whilst another actually capsized.

The slip area was constantly busy under the watchful eye of Enda, EI3IS.

Enda was updated with changes to the schedule and thereby able to call crews to the water as required.

Messages regarding crews encountering difficulty with equipment were passed



enabling their event to be re-scheduled.

One major emergency that occurred during the event was the destruction of the beer tent which was blown over in the wind. Spirits and morale were crushed at this point but the day was saved as the decision to run an "Al-Fresco" bar was taken.

Perhaps a mistake as it poured rain towards the end of the event and the bar was closed!

The operators on this event have assisted with the Regatta for many years and it has become second nature at this point. Preparation for the event is just a case of bringing the portable rig on site and being deployed to the operating position.

The orders for the day can only be determined at the start of the event.

Within 5 minutes of the commencement of the Regatta, the schedules of crews participating were confirmed and altered accordingly and adjusted as the day progressed.

This is possible with experienced operators but the new operators are expected to monitor the activity and observe the implications as the event progresses before taking part the following year.



International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend

August 20/21st 2010

Three EI stations were amongst the 445 stations listed worldwide for this years Lighthouse/Lightship weekend.

They are:

EI4LRC from Tarbert Island Lighthouse (IE0002)

EI5GVB/P from Broadhaven (IE0006)

EI8GB/P from St. John's Point Lighthouse (IE0005)

Full details of the event on: www.illw.net

This is an annual event that runs on the last weekend of August every year and is growing all the time. Only six Irish Lighthouses have been activated since the event began back in 1998. See the Commissioners of Irish light website to select your lighthouse for next year.

<http://www.commissionersofirishlights.com/>



George Reynolds EI2F (c. 1934)

George Reynolds EI2F was born in Dublin in 1901. Although he qualified as a Ship's Radio Operator he did not go to sea. He worked as an electrical engineer in a printing company. He got his experimenters licence in 1932 and became a silent key in 1966.

See article by George in the Sept.2009 issue of Echo Ireland

Thanks to Joe EI7GY

California Hams Help Coordinate Off-Road Rescue: IRTS Members John Ronan K3ZJJ Involved

This report is reproduced with permission from ARRL News 17th June 2010

On Saturday, June 12th around 1330 local time, Jim Siemons, AF6PU, of Walnut Creek, California, was checking his e-mails when he received one from a friend who was concerned that his brother, who along with four friends had taken an off-road adventure trip along California's Rubicon Trail, had not come home when expected. Since Siemons and his friend's brother were members of the same off-roading club, his friend thought that Siemons might be in a position to access some information about the group's situation.

Siemons forwarded the e-mail to several club members and within five minutes he received a phone call from fellow club member Jenny Ward KI6YBQ, suggesting that he try using Amateur Radio in attempting to locate the missing group. The Rubicon Trail connects Georgetown with the west side of Lake Tahoe. It traverses some of America's most challenging off-road trails as it meanders through peaks reaching upwards of 12,000 feet. There is no mobile phone coverage on the Trail and very limited official agency radio coverage, making Amateur Radio the only effective means of communication in the area.

Siemons initially looked for a Repeater frequency that might cover the Rubicon Trail. He found that the KA6GWY repeater in Pollock Pines, California had coverage of the Trail but it was 100 miles away from his location and out of range of his hand-held transceiver. He put out a call on the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club's W6CX repeater and sought assistance.

John Ronan K3ZJJ was operating on the repeater and responded to the call. "Living at the top of the Oakland Hills, I knew he had a fair chance of hitting the Pollock Pines repeater", Siemons explained. John was able to make contact with a couple of hams who were in the vicinity of the Trail and who offered to help. Merlin Scott KC6 BFV had access to an El Dorado County Sheriff's Office radio and alerted some officers on patrol in the area.

Siemons was aware that one of the off-roaders was a ham, but he was not certain

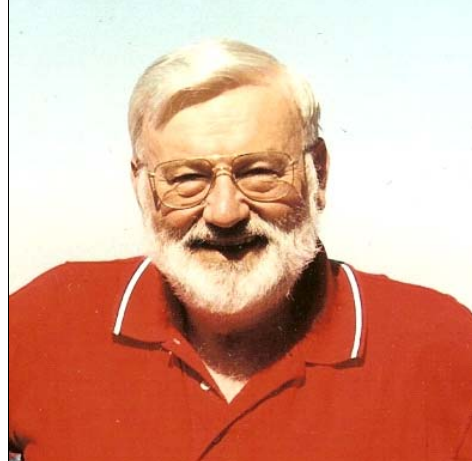
that he had his rig with him or if he knew the local repeater frequencies. All the drivers were experienced but that only went so far, due to the fact that the snow levels were still quite high and the trail was considered impassable at the time.

By 4 p.m. local time hams and off-roaders on both ends of the trail were searching for the group but search and rescue efforts were hampered by the rough condition of the Trail and the heavy snow. Shortly after a helicopter had joined the search at 7 p.m., a ham using Citizen Band radio made contact with the group and relayed this information via Amateur Radio. By 7.30 p.m. the helicopter had located the group, landed on the Trail and determined that everyone was healthy. The group had problems with their vehicles in the heavy snow and rough conditions and were unable to maintain their schedule. Hams and the Sheriff's Department monitored the group's progress until their exit from the Trail while Jim Siemons kept their families updated as to their progress. Jim had the last word "This event ended well, but even if it had gotten a lot rougher, it would have been better than it otherwise would have been because of Amateur Radio!"

John T. Ronan K3ZJJ

When the above story appeared in the ARRL News of June 17th 2010, an eagle-eyed IRTS Committee member remembered that John T. Ronan K3ZJJ is a long time member of IRTS. He was kind enough to share his background and family details with Echo Ireland and we are happy to be able to reproduce those details here.

John is a third generation Irish-American - his grand parents having emigrated from the Galway area in the second half of the 19th century. Originally living in Boston they drifted West and his grand father worked in the mining industries of California and Nevada before eventually settling in Oakland, California. John was born in the thirties and remembers as a child the family meeting for Sunday dinner in his grandparents home where Irish was spoken. John is still interested in the Irish language and meets weekly with some friends to study the language. AND, he watches TG4 on the Internet



John Ronan K3ZJJ

Married to Sylvia, John has two children and three grand-children and has practised as a corporate attorney for forty-five years. His interest in Amateur Radio goes back many years. He was first licensed in 1963 in Pennsylvania where his father-in-law Max Pickel's callsign was K3COA. To continue the family connection with the hobby, John's daughter, Liz, is licensed as KA2OGQ. Currently, John is President of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club, a large and prestigious club based in the twin cities of Concord and Walnut Creek some 40 miles east of San Francisco

As a visitor to Ireland over the years, John has followed up on the family background in Co. Galway, has paid homage to Cill Ronan in the Aran Islands and has even noticed that there is another John Ronan among the membership of IRTS.

Next Theory Examination

The next theory examination for the Amateur Station Licence will be held on Wednesday, 6th October next at 2 p.m. in the ComReg Offices in Dublin.

The closing date for receipt of applications to sit the examination is Friday, 17th September. For further information on the application procedure, exam fees and other details see 'Theory Examination' in the 'Information' section of the website.

The 'Downloads' section of the website includes a very useful document 'Studying for the Amateur Radio Examination'.

The 'Links' section of the website under 'Radio Theory' contains much useful information for anyone studying for the licence examination.'



Excerpt from the HX files

A Look at ATV with Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX - Excerpt 011

Hello and welcome to X-tract 11 of the HX files.

As I write this file it has been only a couple of weeks since the rally in Germany and I am still sorting out (the bills) the bits and pieces I bought at the Friedrichshafen show in June.

As well as the many fittings that I bought, I also bought a 30 cms wide dish for 10 GHz, (good for some local work) and a 20w amp for 23cms ATV.

So, that will be another project to work on in the future for the /portable shack or/ mobile.

Out, and about.

Since the last HX files I have been out and about with Mark EI9FX doing a bit of portable ATV on 10 GHz. Before I went /p, I went to Mark's home to line up our sat receiver's and to give the rest of the gear the once over to make sure that everything was still working after the last time they were used. As all of you portable operators know, it can be very easy to damage your gear from all the assembling and dismantling of the station. So a check up before you go could save yourself a wasted journey, after all just because the equipment was working when you packed it away, it may have been damaged in transit or even in your store room.

Attenuation, attenuation.

The first test to be done was for me to transmit from one end of the Mark's garage to the other.

We used Mark's 10 GHz Tx/Rx on receive mode. My first Tx was using a transition, which also had 12db of attenuation on it, see photo 3 above the 20 cent piece, as we did not want to be nuking our self's.

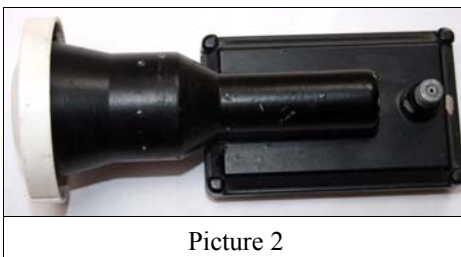
For the next test I got a 12v battery and I set up my station 30m from Mark's station, and the third test was 200m.

I attached a small horn aerial belonging to Mark to the transition, and it did not matter where I pointed the aerial we got the same p5 results still with the attenuation attached. We then repeated the test with Mark's 10 GHz doing Txing. And after all those test were done, it was time to find out if we could pack all the gear away before Pauline (Mark's XYL) would have the toasted sandwiches and tea made. I am happy to report that Pauline won, as the tea and grub were on

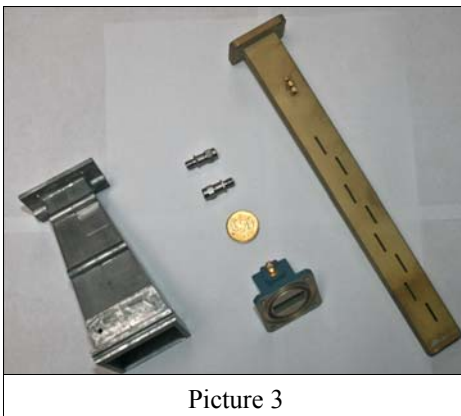
the table when we went into the kitchen. It was after 2300 when I was about to leave Mark's QTH, and as I had all the gear in the car I asked Mark about a site I could operate from that was not too far away and that was handy for me to get to



Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3

as I was unfamiliar with the area around his house.

Mark knew of a spot that was on a small hill over 4 miles (7'ish km) from his home and we both knew that we would not be setting any records at that distance, but we had to start some were.

After setting up the portable gear in the car, I used the transition with the horn aerial, and the attenuation still attached. I did not use any hi-tec stand, I opened the window of the car to a suitable level, and with the aerial and my hand resting on the window, I took aim roughly at Mark's home, I gave him a call on 2m

and as arranged he got his son Darren to turn the flash lamp on and off in the window of the shack he had set up upstairs in the east wing.

I turned on the rig, and after 2 or 3 seconds, (yes seconds, because we knew before we had even started to transmit each others location) Mark received my signal P5; I could turn the aerial almost 45 deg off Mark before my signal went to a P2. Mark's report was so good I decided to remove the aerial from the transition, after I had turned the rig off first.

When I transmitted again there was no difference in the quality of the pictures Mark was receiving.

I was using a camcorder with a tape in it playing a previous event that was recorded earlier as this would give a better picture than a live one as the camcorder I was using on the night had not got an infrared option.

Later on, after a couple of more tests ,and for the grand finale, I used the slot antenna you can see in photo 3.

I used the ever popular cable ties to secure the aerial and transition to the roof rack. (no expense spared here).

I then placed the camera on the dash of the car using some sticky back Velcro, and then using the lights of the car, Mark could then see the road ahead of me, and with the lights of the car turned off, (I had stopped the car at this time) he could make out the lights on the M1 motorway and that of Dundalk in the distance.

Equipment used.

Both Mark and I used the same type of transmitters for our tests.

In the upstairs room Mark used a 40 cms dish first for receiving and he then switched to just an LNB, (photo 2), when we saw how strong the signal was.

TX power was 500mw reduced down with 12db attenuation to around 30mw when in Mark's garage.

That is still very strong RF power in a confined space and with the chance of reflected power so we took care that we were not in the firing line of the RF.

In photo 1 you can see the equipment I used on the night; the picture was taken with the cables removed.

And finally.....

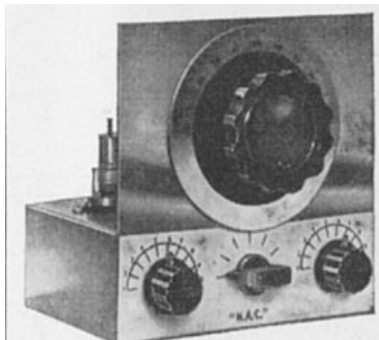
Many thanks yet again, to Thos (EI2JD) for taking the photos for me.

And may all your signals be P5.
73's Pat.

Hearing All Continents... Eventually

By Tony EI5EM

The first piece of radio equipment I ever built was the HAC shortwave receiver in the 1960s. HAC stood for *Hear All Continents* and indeed I did hear them all with that simple one-valve regenerative receiver and a random long-wire antenna strung out in the back garden.



The HAC was advertised in *Practical Wireless*. The One Valve kit (Model C) cost £1 (€1.25) and the Two Valve (Model E) was 43/- (€2.75). Green Denco plug-in coils were used to change the received frequency range. I saved up my pocket money for the Model C.

Before ordering the kit, I had to apply for an import licence from the Customs House in Dublin, as the HAC Company was based in London. I had to supply a pro-forma invoice and complete a detailed Customs form before I was given the import licence.

Formalities completed successfully, I purchased a postal order and sent off for the equipment. Every day for weeks, I rushed home from school in anticipation of the kits arrival. Eventually an official envelope arrived from the Post Office informing me that the kit had arrived and was being held by Customs and Excise pending presentation of the required documentation.

I had to make a formal "entry" application in the Customs House and have it cleared and stamped before going to the Post Office depot in Preston Street to present the "clearance" document and collect the package. I didn't have to pay any duty or tax, as the kit was "for educational purposes."

I could not get home fast enough that evening to start assembling the kit. I had no experience in building and relied on

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my late father (1910-2003) for assistance. Dad had been an SWL and had built many receivers in his youth. It was from him that I got my interest in radio.

We used plumbers solder and a large copper soldering iron, which we heated on one of the gas rings of the cooker. The cleaning flux was Baker's Fluid and the underside of an empty shoe-polish tin was used to clean and tin the iron. At the time I did not realise that the plumber's solder and the fluid would be corrosive and liable to cause dry solder joints. However, "where ignorance is bliss it is folly to be wise", and we continued in our ignorance.

Work was progressing well that evening until the doorbell rang at about 8pm. The local curate, Fr. Clancy, dropped by unexpectedly for a visit. By the time he had chatted, had a cup of tea and led us in praying the Rosary, it was too late to do any more work on the HAC. I was so disappointed.

However, the following day was a Saturday and Dad, sensing my disappointment, promised to continue after lunch (we called it dinner) the following day. True to his word, we were finished assembling the kit by about 6pm.

My Aunt Alice worked in Ever Ready in Portobello Harbour and had supplied the 120-Volt Winner HT battery and a 3-Volt bicycle battery for the valve filament. While I had the HAC my aunt always ensured that any "damaged" batteries were put aside for me.

I digress however. My Dad connected a short length of antenna wire and the bat-

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teries. The valve filament started to glow and grew brighter. However, there was not a sound from the high-impedance phones. We couldn't hear any continent only a deafening silence. I was devastated.

Dad checked and rechecked the wiring and everything seemed correct. We re-connected the batteries but there was still no sound. Dad then reheated the soldering iron and went over each connection carefully again. He said that he had often come across "bad solder connections" before. It was no wonder he had, while using the wrong solder and flux.

He reconnected everything again and BINGO, the receiver came to life once the filament had heated. I experienced such a wonderful sense of achievement, even though Dad had done all the work. It was a special, magical and happy moment shared between father and son.

Within a few days we had an outdoor "aerial" erected and the thrill and enjoyment that I got from that simple regenerative receiver has never been bettered by any other construction project I have built since.

I eventually bought the add-on valve and components to upgrade my HAC and later I added a small transistor audio amplifier and loudspeaker. I used the HAC for short-wave listening for several years until I was working and could afford to buy a commercial superhetrodyne receiver.

I cannot believe that it is almost 45 years since my Dad and I built the HAC on the kitchen table at home. *Tempus fugit*.

6 Metres in Oman

In a letter dated 4 August 2010, Brgd. Abdulrazak Alshahwarzi, A41JT, the Secretary General of the Royal Omani Amateur Radio Society, informs that the 6 metre band (50 – 52 MHz) has been allocated for Amateur Radio usage by the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority in the Sultanate of Oman, on a secondary basis, effective June 2010. Radio amateurs in the Sultanate of Oman hope to work you on the "Magic Band."

4 Metres in Spain

The Spanish PTT has temporarily authorized the use of the 70.150 - 70.200 MHz. This allocation can be used by all the EA licensees until July 1st, 2011.

Castlebar International Four Day Walking Festival

AREN Operation

The Castlebar International 4 Day Walking Festival has been running since 1967. Members of the Galway VHF Group became involved in providing AREN communications cover since 1992 following an article seen the IRTS publication showing the Group operating from the top of Croagh Patrick. Walkers from over 21 countries participate in this event and the numbers are often greater than 1,700. There are several walks run on each day which range from 10k, 20k, 40k road walks and 30k cross country rambles.

The road walks do not require radio communication as there are regular check points and refreshment stops around the route with regular "patrol" vehicles keeping an eye on the participants who walk at their own pace and also replenishing the refreshment areas.

The cross country rambles are lead by a guide and take the walkers through rough boggy terrain in the hills surrounding the Castlebar area. The AREN team assist with the communications throughout the ramble. There can be anything up to 450 ramblers on the guided walk at any one time. The guide plus a team of marshals and medical personnel are all linked to each other by PMR transceivers. Two members of the AREN team are linked in to the PMR network and if an emergency should arise it is their responsibility to communicate with the back-up vehicle following the ramble at ground level. Tom, EI2GP, doubled as medical officer and AREN operator. Joe, EI3IX, an experienced Castlebar hillwalker, was the second AREN operator walking with the group. Steve, EI5DD, was driving the support vehicle and was in contact with Tom and Joe via the 2 metre link. If a situation should arise it would be Tom or Joe who would call the support vehicle.

The support vehicle contained equipment such as the defibrillator, medical supplies, additional splints, and medications. If called, the support vehicle could drive to a pre-arranged pick up-point and collect anyone who was unable to continue the walk or deploy equipment required to assist with treatment of a casualty.

There were six marshals situated within the walk, on PMR radios, one of which was situated at the rear of the group and responsible for sweeping and ensuring that nobody was left behind. At all times,

the operation of the PMR radio link was well disciplined and seldom used unless there was cause for concern. Initial communication was established with each member of the team and from there onwards the links remained silent unless necessary information was passed

If an emergency situation was called, either Tom EI2GP or Joe EI3IX linked with Steve EI5DD to organise a pick up point or for the necessary equipment to be made available at short notice. Other duties involved the organisation of refreshment stops as the walkers descend from their hill walk. Once the walkers were on the public highway 3 vehicles were responsible for the safety of the walkers.

At times there could be a build up of traffic behind the walkers. After clearing with the lead vehicle, via the radio system, it was possible to bring the build up of cars along the outside of the file of walkers to prevent a long tail of slow moving vehicles at the rear of the walking group. This was something that could only be done safely via the communication system. The lead car would drive ahead and halt oncoming traffic to make it possible to bring cars up from the back

of walking group preventing a large tail-back of traffic.

The system has been well tried and tested over the years and the marshals are remarkably well clued in to radio operation which makes the operation quite efficient. As there are no checkpoints on a guided ramble it is easy to run the communications with a smaller number of AREN operators.

In conclusion there were no emergency calls during the course of the cross country rambles over the four days. Road safety was covered by 3 vehicles when the walkers had to walk along the public highway. At all times, great effort was made to minimise the inconvenience to other road users.

Perhaps APRS will be used in future events but it was easy enough to identify where the walk was at all times as a result of the communication between the operators during the walk. The marshals on the ramble have been well tutored over the years and work well with the Galway VHF Group operators. Communications were good and readable at all times during the walk.

Contest Calendar

All Times UTC

September 2010

4-5	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	All Asian DX Contest	SSB
4	Sat 0000 - 2400	Russian "Radio" RTTY WW Contest	RTTY
4-5	Sat 0001 - Sun 2359	ARRL EME Contest	
4-5	Sat 1300 - Sun 1259	IARU Region 1 Field Day	SSB
11-12	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	Worked All Europe DX-Contest	SSB
18-19	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	The 51st Scandinavian Activity Contest	CW
24-25	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	CQ WW RTTY DX Contest	RTTY

October 2010

2-3	Sat 0001 - Sun 2359	ARRL EME Contest	
2-3	Sat 0800 - Sun 0800	Oceania DX Contest	Phone
2	Sat 1600 - 1959	EU Sprint Autumn	SSB
3	Sun 0700 - 1900	RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest	CW/SSB
9-10	Sat 0800 - Sun 0800	Oceania DX Contest	CW
9-10	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	Scandinavian Activity Contest	SSB
9	Sat 1600 - 1959	EU Sprint Autumn	CW
16-17	Sat 1500 - Sun 1459	Worked All Germany Contest	CW/SSB
30-31	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	CQ WW DX Contest	SSB
30-31	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	ARRL EME Contest	

November 2010

6-7	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	Ukrainian DX Contest	
13-14	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	WAE DX Contest,	RTTY
13-14	Sat 0700 - Sun 1300	JIDX Phone Contest	
13-14	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	OK/OM DX Contest	CW
20-21	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	LZ DX Contest 1200Z	
20-21	Sat 1600 - 0700	All Austrian 160-Meter Contest	
20-21	Sat 2100 - Sun 0100	RSGB 2nd 1.8 MHz Contest	
27-28	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	CQ Worldwide DX Contest,	CW

World First on 160m in CQWW SSB Contest 2009



Dan EI3JZ/LY3MM

Congratulations to Dmitrij (Dan) Pavlov, LY3MM/EI3JZ who operated the EI7M club station to a world first in the 2009 160m CQWW SSB Contest setting a new EI record in the process. Dan is resident in Carrickmacross and regularly makes the round trip of well over 400 miles to prepare the station and take part in contests.

Four other stations set new EI records in the same contest: Mark EI6JK on 40 metres, Stan EI6DX on 20m QRP, Pat EI9HX on 20m assisted and Thos EI2JD on 40m assisted.

Twenty one stations competed from EI last year and we hope for an even bigger participation in this years contest which will be held over the last full weekend in October which this year falls on the 30th and 31st.



Niall EI4CF

Thos EI2JD



Pat EI9HX

Stan EI6DX

CQWW SSB EI Records

		Up to and including 2009				
Callsign		Score	QSOs	Zones	DXCC	Year
High Power						
All	EI8IR	3,325,350	3,508	112	413	2003
10	EI3JE	692,958	2,155	34	113	2002
15	EI8GS	506,850	1,808	33	122	2002
20	EI2CN	605,914	2,080	35	107	1984
40	EI6JK	236,288	173	30	112	2009
80	EI8IR	159,965	1,203	21	86	2002
160	EI7M	125,584	1,085	20	74	2009
Low Power						
LAll	EI7GL	700,006	1,164	77	312	2000
L10	EI4DW	279,070	1,173	23	95	2000
L15	EI6FR	392,657	1,451	33	124	2000
L20	EI8IC	230,184	1,191	31	108	2001
L40	EI6JK	31,968	383	13	61	2004
L80	EI7JN	4,845	151	8	43	2005
L160	EI7IU	5,989	147	6	35	1998
QRP						
20	EI6DX	37,017	353	16	65	2009
Assisted						
A All	EI8IR	2,977,871	3,005	123	410	2000
A 10	EI4DW	472,512	1,516	29	109	2001
A 15	EI6FR	203,312	769	27	104	1997
A 20	EI9HX	529,298	1,857	35	119	2009
A 40	EI2JD	110,037	610	27	102	2009
A 80	X					
A 160	X					
MS	EI7M	9,563,686	6,586	153	605	2001
MM	X					

CQWW SSB 2009 - EI Results

Call	Power	Band	Score	QSOs	Zones	DXCC
EI4GYB	H	All	996,216	1742	71	238
EI2CN	H	14	568,485	1991	35	100
EI6JK	H	7	236,288	173	30	112
EI7M	H	1.8	125,584	1085	20	74
EI/ON4EI	L	All	559,875	1078	73	302
EI2VNO	L	All	125,000	450	46	154
EI3ENB	L	All	41,040	225	39	132
EI4GAB	L	All	33,410	212	29	101
EI2KA	L	All	27,848	201	24	94
EI4JZ	L	All	3,285	144	15	58
EI4GNB	L	All	1,500	28	12	18
EI5JQ	L	14	8,190	112	14	31
EI6DX	QRP	14	37,017	353	16	65
Assisted						
EI/W5GN		All	258,944	640	57	215
EI7CC		All	170,090	454	54	179
EI4GXB		All	44,756	180	44	123
EI4CF		21	126,225	551	28	107
EI9HX		14	529,298	1857	35	119
EI9ES		14	858	34	6	16
EI2JD		7	110,037	610	27	102
EI9E	MS		3,052,532	3697	117	457

Stations in bold are certificate winners

Currently, we do not have any working digital repeaters such as DSTAR in EI, but that should not be a hindrance to enjoying what is a wonderful new ham radio mode which has taken the world by storm.

The lack of any local repeater network can be overcome in several ways. Firstly if you do not have a DSTAR radio you can obtain a DV Dongle, DV standing for digital voice for your computer and using the internet to access to the digital network which includes the most popular DSTAR gateway and reflector systems from all over the world.

This little "bluebrick" plugs into the USB port of any computer and to communicate, all one needs is a microphone and the appropriate free downloaded software. This will give you the opportunity to discover the feel of operating in a digital mode for the first time. Hams that are already used to the Echolink and IRLP system will be familiar with the setup.

Secondly, the same company that has developed the DV Dongle has only recently brought out a device called a DVAP that is, a digital voice access point. This is much the same as a DV Dongle except that it has the added feature of an RF input/output that effectively connects the internet to your own DSTAR radio, but as the power output is in the milli-watt range you can expect the same coverage as your domestic Wi-Fi system; great in your garden or just down the road, but it's not such a practical option when range is an issue.

The device is also known as the "DV Dongle TX" on some internet listings.

Thirdly there is the "DV Hotspot" or digital access point and the following is a brief description of how to get one up and running in your shack or remote site.

If one of your existing analogue transceivers has a 96k packet connection such as the Yaesu FT817, then you can use this analogue radio to relay the digital packets between an internet connected computer and your DSTAR radio.

Apart from the digital radio the only other item you need to obtain is a digital node adaptor that connects between your computer and the analogue radio.

I purchased one directly from Satoshi Yasuda call sign 7M3TJZ/AD6GZ in Japan for about \$100. Other groups such as the Dutch Star project and Mark Philips G7LTT also provide boards and firmware for similar node adaptors.

Again to setup the operating Hotspot one can download the Hotspot software for free on the internet. Once installed on a

PC, the node adaptor is wired from the PC to the analogue rig and when the digital diagnostics are ran and final audio levels are set you are ready to transmit digital DV signals from the digital network to your DSTAR radio and visa versa.

This configuration uses a simplex frequency and is similar to the digipeaters we used to run on packet radio some years back. The software control setup can limit access to all users or a closed group of users depending on your needs. Each station with a DSTAR radio can digipeat through your node access point to any of the pre-programmed world wide gateways listed in the hotspot software.

At my own home QTH, I have set up my system to connect to an Australian reflector in the mornings, a British during the day and American in the evening; this gives me world wide coverage with in a 10km range of my home QTH on the 70cm band. Call sign routing is not featured in this setup, so one is confined to one particular gateway at a time, a true digital repeater would allow call sign routing to any given gateway at any time. For this to happen a full duplex digital repeater would need to be installed at our club repeater sites along with an internet gateway connection. Currently Icom's DSTAR repeaters are available and expensive, although some repeater groups have been experimenting with a non Icom digital repeaters. VK5REX and GB7MH are cases in point.

This development is welcomed as Icom's exclusive hold on the DSTAR market is probably hindering the expansion of the digital ham radio networks currently.

Readers looking for further information on DSTAR and alternative access to digital ham radio services can check out the following web sites to begin with.

DV Dongle manufacturer: <http://www.dvdongle.com>

DSTAR User groups: <http://www.d-starusers.org/>

Open DSTAR group: <http://www.knieselfisch.de>

Node adaptor user group: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/gmsk_dv_node/

Satoshi's site: <http://d-star.dyndns.org/rig.html.en>

Dutch Star project: <http://www.dutch-star.nl>

Mark Philips G7LTT site: <http://www.enicomms.com>

Hotspot free software: <http://w9arp.com/hotspot/>

Hotspot maps: D-Star Hot Spot Map DV Node - Google Maps

73 de Don EI8DJ

email: donkelly108@gmail.com



53rd Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)

October 16/17th 2010

Contact your local scout troop if you can help

EI50UN

A special event station EI50UN will be on the bands until December 31st 2010.

The station is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first Irish Battalion to serve overseas with the United Nations (ONUC) in Congo.

QSL's via EI2V Irish Air Corps Amateur Radio Club.

So, you slip your portable Rx into your anorak pocket and off you go to the local park, another town, the seaside - or away on a plane for your holidays.

It will be nice to hear the many stations that you can't get at home, ... if you still have the receiver when you get there! We are living in 'interesting' times. Twenty or thirty years ago that would have been possible without giving it any extra thought. Nowadays the travel and trip situation needs planning in advance, or you might lose that expensive little set.

The local park maybe not the safest place any more. Even if you are a 'black-belt-in origami' - the young villains there will be tempted to snatch your precious radio (they do it daily with mobile phones) - its re-sale value might be worth a few 'fixes' to them. The same warning goes for the seaside too, wherever crowds gather you'll find pickpockets and thieves on the lookout for any small electronic gadgetry.

The better organised ones work as teams; you might spot the snatcher but he will have passed-it-on very quickly, wearing a sweet and innocent smile when he is searched.

A friend - last summer, with his car windows rolled down - paused at a traffic light and found that his scanner had been lifted from the passenger seat in seconds.

He never saw the thief, who was away on his scooter like a flash!

Okay, so this is all common sense. But travelling abroad requires more precautions.

We all like to look after our equipment and keep it clean and smart-looking:

Ah-ha, - just the sort of thing that is easily sold-on!

A few tatty radio station stickers here and there or a bit of tape carelessly stuck-on might deter the thoughtful thief.

A simple cloth bag to cover the set (one often comes with it) is a good disguise, the scruffier the better!

And its not just criminals. Going through airport security in the 21st century is fraught with potential problems. Yes, any metallic or electronic device will set-off the usual alarms. Your set will be examined and you will be questioned.

Rule number one: Don't get smart!

Answer the questions politely and briefly without adding extraneous information. "I'm a member of the IRTS" isn't going to mean much to a big, butch Kalashnikov-wielding guard in Nairobi. His counterparts at Shannon Airport or Heathrow might know, but they don't care! Saying, **"It's my own little radio, for keeping-up with news and sport while I'm away"** is a good line. Always have fresh batteries and the set tuned to a strong local FM broadcast signal so that you can show that it works.

Licensed operators should carry a copy of their licence (if it's a hand-held transceiver) but be sure that your address is the same as any other ID you may have.

Do not offer to open the back, *"to prove it's not a bomb"* - unless they ask.

(Don't even *think* the word bomb!) Using the provided transparent bags will help to show you have nothing to hide.

Avoid the words, "communications/short-wave/amateur radio/ aircraft spotting" etc - and certainly don't mention Voice of America, Radio Pakistan or Havana Cuba - or any possibly contentious broadcasters.

Carry the receiver in your 'carry-on' luggage; not to be stowed in the baggage hold.

Resist the temptation to sneak it out during the flight for a fur-

tive scan, cabin crew watch very carefully for out-of-the-ordinary actions and armed incognito guards are on almost all flights nowadays. There is usually an announcement to that effect, with the seat belt and safety information - you always listen to them, don't you?

Leave it in the overhead luggage rack and forget it.

Even in the checked-in luggage, thefts have been known.

Here we come to a problem:

Do you wrap the Rx in your shirts and socks to hide it, or have it in plain site when a genuine searcher examines inside the bag in your absence? I would say the latter; in the worst case you might be called over to explain. Again, be polite and open and don't go into unnecessary details. This is no time to criticise US foreign policy; what a witch Maggie was - or the benefits of communism!

Most of the above tips also apply to your camera, cellular phone, binoculars, lap-top computer and Nintendo type games too.

You automatically take care of them; your little receiver can be almost as valuable.

Probably the best advice is don't take your best, most expensive set.

Take along one that you can afford to lose.

I have travelled abroad with the intention of buying a new piece of gear at my destination, where it could be cheaper or more readily available. The airport problem is then only one-way, - coming back, but it will apply to departure and maybe landing home too. There's no need to say how much or how little it cost but be sure to have the receipt with you, the serial number on it should correspond with the set, and you will have written your name on the instruction leaflet, in advance, don't we all? I also write my name and call-sign on a small sticker inside the battery compartment, a security tip to last as long as you own the set. Remember to remove it if you sell or part-exchange the gear in future.

Personally, I have not flown for more than twelve years. I prefer the car ferries, even if the sea journey is longer. (Hey, it's cheaper too!) Formalities at embarkation are less strict and almost non-existent on arrival, but you can be sure that anything out of the ordinary will have been spotted, if not by security staff but by Customs Officers.

And crews are trained to look for suspicious people and their actions whilst at sea.

I only take on board the few things I might need for my crossing, everything else needed for the holiday stays in the car, in the hold, - a really secure place - nobody is allowed there whilst the ship is at sea.

Some of my friends wear RNLI badges, Irish Army flashes and one even has his old CPO slides sewn onto his Bergen straps. These tricks can help (like my Press Pass!) but don't count on it: most ferry crews are now foreign nationals and will not care if you 'survived the Falklands' - 'patronise a dozen lifeboats' - or were awarded the Miraculous Medal by His Holiness himself!

We want you to have lots of 'Radio Fun' during the 2010 holiday season.

Don't let a stolen or confiscated radio spoil it for you.

A few simple precautions and some good old common sense will 'save-the-day'!

73 de "The Teenage Pensioner."

Tony EI4DIB in Canada

Myself and XYL, Madeline, headed to Vancouver on June 23rd and stayed with friends in Surrey, BC.

I had already been in contact with John VA7XB who is President of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club VE7SAR via Echolink in the months leading up to our trip and he had invited me to participate in their "Field Day" over the weekend of June 26th and 27th.



We met up with John and a few of the other club members on Friday 25th June at a restaurant for breakfast and to discuss what was happening for the field day the next day. (Picture 1).

Pictured are: L to R: Rob (blind) VE7CZV; Clint VA7NXS; John VA7XB; Bill VA7ZBL; Tony VE7/EI4DIB; Dennis VE7DGJ; Chris VA7CMZ; After breakfast John VA7XB brought us to a local Fire Station where a beautiful portable tower was being stored. In January 2010, the tower was donated by the Fleet Management Group at Telus (phone company). The crank-up tower was made by US Towers and has been installed on a dual-axle trailer for transport, along with an 8 kw propane genera-



tor. Once the stabiliser legs are extended and the trailer levelled, the tower can be raised with its electric winch to 107 feet within 5 minutes. (Picture 2)

Over the weekend of the 26th and 27th June the Surrey Radio (SARC) club in conjunction with the Langley Radio Club (LARA) hosted their 2010 Field day: Over 40 members of SARC, LARA and SEPARS worked together to make what many describe as the "best field day ever". For the first time in recent memory, the combined group was able to have three stations running around the clock on SSB, CW and digital modes using Go Kit radios, 4 towers with tri-band beams and several wire antennas. This shows what can be accomplished in a truly co-operative effort between the three organi-



sations. Operating all stations within the large tent (Picture 3) was a real plus in promoting the team spirit. The satellite station was a big hit with visitors (Picture 4), and the GOTA (get on the air) station was busy most of the time with the young crowd. I got an opportunity to operate the "GOTA" radio station for a short while, (see Photo 5) The food was excellent and the public interest high.

I also had the pleasure of meeting up with David Cameron VE7LTD. For those of you who may never have heard of David, he is the inventor of Echolink.

We also visited Victoria City on Vancouver Island after a great day of whale watching, on July 1st which is "Canada Day".

While out enjoying the celebrations we came across a Bus with the callsign



"VE7SEV" on the side of it, me not being too shy dropped in and introduced myself and the guys operating (Picture 6) introduced themselves: Terrance VE7TBC, Alan VA7AWM and Larry Joe VE7DIE. They were part of the "Saanich Emergency Communications Service" helping Police and other services with the Celebrations for Canada Day.

While in the Vancouver area I used the callsign VE7/EI4DIB and used 2m to



make many contacts with local hams, also I had the pleasure of operating through a local Echolink node and was able to connect back to EI2MOG and keep in contact with some of the local EI's, those contacted were: EI4IN, EI2HX, EI2JD, MI3CQR, 2I0SBI, EI2KC to mention a few.

On the evening before we left myself and XYL (Madeline) met up with John VA7XB and his XYL (Heather) and went out for a nice meal (Picture 7), afterwards he brought us back to his house and introduced me to his shack where he put me on the microphone to join in on a local ragchew net.



Strange Wideband HF Pulse Noises

By Des Walsh EI5CD

Noise levels across the MF and HF frequencies and even into VHF have risen inexorably in recent years to unacceptable levels for weak signal operation in virtually urban areas whether radiated directly by the myriad electronic devices or from connecting cables, feeders or power lines.

Years ago the main culprits were radiating vehicle ignition systems, arcing electric motors and the odd faulty arcing thermostat, but look at the explosion of equipment in recent years.

Now we have CFL lamps all over our houses, numerous TVs, PCs and other displays, mobile phone chargers, switched mode power supplies in other devices and electronic controls in most domestic equipment.

Not all devices, but certainly most, are efficient emitters of pulses, white noise and/or oscillators. The result collectively (like the whispers in a room) add up to a fog of electronic noise across an ever-widening swathe of RF frequencies much to the annoyance and frustration of anyone trying to listen to short-wave signals.

The combination of background white-noise, hiss, harmonics of 50Hz and 100Hz switching pulses, high kHz PSU units cannot be effectively limited electronically or nulled out and are an inevitability of 'progress'. We have yet to experience PLT data transmission and I wonder what QRM will be added by kilowatt chargers for the hyped electric cars?

Turning to over the air noise that can be heard across the short-waves, we have all heard the various noises such as the odd data bursts or 10 to 50kHz wide pulse or sweeper radar at times. In the cold war era there was the infamous multi-megawatt 'Woodpecker' that caused havoc with its slow pulses for years until the Chernobyl plant blew up depriving it of its power.

Last year in mid-June and even more powerful HF radar appeared for a couple of days centred on 9.8 and 13.9MHz for a while with tremendously strong HF 30Hz pulses with over 600kHz (yes 600kHz) signals wiping out everything within its bandwidth.

This was HF radar at an old NATO base west of Paris 'resting' a system called NOSTRADAMUS (French acronym for over-the-horizon adaptive radar). For details and photos look up www.onera.fr. Nice aerial array; 288 (yes 288!) wideband HF conical fat dipoles in a tri-star configuration, steerable electronically in azimuth and elevation. All equipment and personnel in underground bunkers, I wonder why?



Nostradamus Antenna Array

Of course there are many other HF radars to be heard at all times. There are sweepers along shorelines monitoring wave heights and wavelength using a few tens of watts to other installations like the Australian JORN (see internet for details) with its hundreds of antennas in the deserts (Western Australia and Queensland) that can reputedly can spot a Cessna taking off in Indonesia and other bits of metal whether on the seas or in the higher atmosphere. Ah well, the military toys.....

But something that has come to my attention a few years ago and has evaded any explanation so far is the existence of wide bands of slow noise pulses covering many HF MHz from about 6.7 to over 25MHz. And seems to be coming from a southeasterly direction. This I have deduced by tuning a sensitive portable receiver at about 22MHz and holding it away from me to get my body to provide some screening to get an approximate DF. By slow pulse I mean around 5 pulses per second, certainly less than 6, but initially some years ago it was now and then slightly changing, increasing the middle band of frequencies around 12 to 17MHz to a slightly more rapid rate. At that stage for a few months the level of pulses was much higher, around 15 to 20dB more and were intermittent, not being on all the time and often suddenly ceasing as if the system was being fine-tuned.

Nowadays, it seems the pulses are there 24/7 but as they are quite weak I only get the chance to hear them in daylight hours at a quite RF rural location.

I stress with all the aforementioned atrocious RF noise in urban areas it is unlikely you will hear the strange pulses unless you have a good antenna such as a 21MHz beam up 20m or more.

I have heard the pulse noise in a few locations, even in SE Spain on holidays and from the variation in strengths seem to be from the SE Asia region.

Another interesting characteristic is the pattern within the broad spread on shortwave. At the moment there seems to be three wide bands covering about 6.7 to 9MHz, 12 to 16MHz and 18 to over 25MHz. Strangely pulses above 20MHz can be heard even when the frequencies seem completely dead, so I do not know how they propagate under these conditions. There is also a strange pattern within the broadband with 'humps and hollows' around 400kHz apart with a variation of about 6dB. So if you hear a peak at say 7120kHz there will be a minimum at 7140 and another peak at 7160kHz and so on.

On AM mode the noise sounds like the swish-swish-swish of a helicopter blade so are not clean pulses and at times on the higher frequencies can sound like the clop-clop-clop of a horse trotting. I suggest anyone trying to hear pulses should try 8MHz or 21MHz in the morning when levels seem to be at a maximum.

I have tried to find out what these signals are but got nowhere. They are not radar (with its typical maximum central lobe and rapidly falling sidebands either side), they seem to be at a constant transmitted level (but what wideband Tx and antenna is being used?). One correspondent who contacted me, who has extensive antenna and monitoring facilities, maintains there seems to be a certain phase modulation shift between the groups of bands and reckons they are not coming from a single source. He is as intrigued as I am as to what the origin and purpose of these MHz munching noise pulses are. Yet there has been no comment from amateur or professional users in the past couple of years. There is virtually no reference to their existence on the internet or in print.

So if you hear these signals I would like to get your observations and comments.

Des Walsh EI5CD

Galway VHF Group CASHOTA Activation of Castle Kirk

Castle Kirk or Hen's Castle is situated on a very small Island located between Doon and Maam in an area of Lough Corrib that is free of Islands. This Norman keep, placed in the direction of the cardinal compass points, was built early in the 12th Century by the sons of Roderick O'Connor, last High-King of Ireland, aided by their then ally, William Fitz-Adelm, the first de Burgo. This castle which occupies almost the entire island had a troubled history, being stormed and besieged many times, not the least of which was the celebrated occasion when Grainne Mhaol (Grace O'Malley) personally defended it. It continued to be occupied as a castle until it finally succumbed to the Cromwellian soldiers in 1654.

The Island is approximately half a mile from the shores although a 3 mile boat journey from the pier next to Keane's in Maam. The CASHOTA designator for Castle Kirk is EI-005 C, the WAI square is L95 Galway and the locator is IO-53-FL.

Galway VHF Group members, Gerry, EI8DRB, Enda, EI3IS and Steve EI5DD, decided that the long overdue activation of Castle Kirk should take place over the long weekend 31st of July to the 1st of August.

The plan of action was to load equipment into the lake boat at 8 am from the pier in Maam and then take the journey down the Bealnabrack river and into Lough Corrib which is a journey of some 3 miles. It is unwise to make this journey if there is any strong breeze as the lake can get pretty rough. It was raining when the group arrived and there was a fair breeze. After a 2 hour wait the weather took a turn for the better and the decision was taken to make the move. The journey was approximately 20 minutes to the island and the last quarter of a mile was spent negotiating a safe passage into a small pier that was in very shallow water.

The requisite equipment for running two stations was carried up to the Castle. Inside, the Castle had been partially renovated with an oak floor on beams that gave a good vantage point to observe the lake. The tent was pitched and gear stowed in between showers.

The 20 metre station was the first up and running with Gerry, EI8DRB operating.



The antenna was a vertical dipole and the rig was a Yaesu FT-847. 20 metres was yielding contacts into Europe and the occasional station from the USA. In the mean time initial attempts to put up a top-band doublet failed as there was insufficient space on the island to accommodate it. An 80 metre doublet was hoisted instead giving plenty of room to orientate it and bring it to a good height. The station used on the LF bands was the Yeasu FT 897D with an MFJ tuner. Both 80 and 40 metres were in a poor state at this time. A quick tidy of the operating area was in order and then the mandatory cup of tea and sustenance was in order.

A good survey of the Island was carried out with a view to a future visit the. The total length of the Island would just about accommodate a top band doublet with difficulty and the width would just fit an 80 metre doublet. The problem would be anchor points if one wanted to get the wire horizontal without dog-legs. A multi-band vertical would be considered as part of future operations.

The weather continued to be variable as the day progressed but seemed to clear as darkness fell. 80 metres finally opened up around 8pm and there was a fair interest generated in the operation of Castle Kirk. Operation on 80 was more relaxed and



detailed information was passed Enda, EI3IS, and Steve, EI5DD operated this station. During one QSO there was a little difficulty in getting the castle name across to an operator in the UK. After spelling the castle name "KILO, INDIA, RADIO KILO" a couple of times without success, the additional bit "as in Captain James T" was added and amazingly the penny dropped at the other end. This became the catch phrase for the rest of the operation. 80 metre operation continued very well until 1 am when the conditions began to change. An uncomfortable night followed sleeping on the oak floor and also the midges stayed up late and contin-

ued to feast on the VHF Group operators. weekends all summer.

A 7 am start had twenty metres up and running with Gerry EI8DRB on the



microphone. Conditions were very strange as stations from the UK were very strong and then the band would favour the USA and cycle back and forth from there onwards. 80 was dead to the world with some weak watery signals and 40 metres was not fantastic, but there was plenty of activity between the UK and Europe until about 10:30 am.

At one stage a G operator asked would he spot us on one of the DX clusters. Within 20 or so minutes of him posting a "CQ Hen's Castle" spot, the 20m station was on the receiving end of a pileup, with many R and U stations competing with the short-skip Gs for attention. A good



few transatlantic contacts were logged during this period also, the most notable of which being a QRP station located in Maine. The highlight of the rush was definitely the YA station who after many patient attempts managed an exchange with us. Many of the stations contacted finished the QSO with a wry "73, enjoy your pileup"

Aside from the quick-fire exchanges with the more distant stations, there were plenty of more leisurely contacts with European stations interested in the Castle and her history. There were also many 'special event' calls and stations on the air, perhaps taking advantage of what often seems like one of the few contest-free

20 metres continued on up until midday. The 80 metre station was tuned towards the IRTS news frequency about 10 minutes prior to the time of transmission. There was little evidence of stations tuning up on 3650 KHz and those that were heard were very weak. When the news was transmitted Sean, EI7CD, was weak to non-existent. Whilst the news was copied fully there was no hope of getting a call in to Sean with his high level of local noise at the time. This was the vital call as it is the only way to draw the attention of EI operators that one is going to be operating a little further up the band to give out the WAI or CASHOTA number. Several attempts were made to call in even with other stations relaying the call to Sean. Conditions were just not there to favour the contact.

At this point it was decided that it was time to eat and make the decision as to whether the operation continued or whether it was time to dismantle. Weather conditions were changing with a breeze beginning to strengthen and the safe journey back was considered. As with all these operations the dismantling of the station seemed to be a lot faster. The equipment was down to and loaded into the boat. The journey back was a little rough with choppy water, but uneventful. Once on the river the water became calm.

A debriefing session occurred in Maam over a long cool pint and a toasted sandwich. As always the Ham Radio Deluxe Logging program had worked well. There had been problems on the LF station with a level of noise from the power supply, which once disconnected, would disappear. The use of a noise-cancelling unit had reduced this to minimum but it was time to find another lap top computer at this stage. Steps to reduce the amount of cross talk between the two stations would have to be improved as this was creating a few problems but not overly serious. Despite the poor conditions over 400 contacts were made. As a group each operator had their own contribution to make towards the success of the event. Gerry had a great talent for producing tasty food from the basic resources. It was decided that this trip will be made on an annual basis.

A special card will be available for any that made contact with the Castle Kirk operation.

AREN Operation Galway Walking Club Marathon

The Galway Walking Club Marathon took place on the 14th of August over a 26 mile distance from Killary to Maam Bridge. Four operators, from the Galway VHF Group, operating on 80 metres, manned the 6 checkpoints.

Duties included the accountability of walkers between checkpoints, the organisation of transport or medical attention for walkers who were unable to continue their walk and the organisation of additional supplies of water and refreshment to each checkpoint.

A half Marathon was also run in conjunction with the main event. The HF equipment was installed in vehicles the night before the event and antennae were tuned prior to the event. At 0800 walkers were deployed from buses to the start of the walk. The operators made their way to checkpoints and set up station becoming operational immediately. Whilst the 80 metre band was noisy in the early part of the day it provided excellent communications throughout the event.

Transport was organised for any walker who could not continue and Civil Defence were on hand to assist with any first aid requirements. Information regarding walkers who were not going to continue was passed onto the next checkpoint.

At all times the number of walkers between checkpoints was accounted for. The sweepers communicated with checkpoints via PMR handheld radios confirming that all walkers had passed through. Updated information was available at all times between the checkpoints.

Communication between checkpoints was excellent and an updates were received well by all operators. Once all of the walkers had passed through a checkpoint, the operator was then free to hop to the next free checkpoint and take up position. This system worked very well and shifting band conditions had no effect on the communications throughout the day. 80 metres provided an excellent system for communication in mountainous terrain where even the most sophisticated network of VHF repeaters would be a waste of time and effort.

One frequency was used at all times and everyone was able to receive updates as required. When the event was finished two operators, driving home by different routes, remained in contact for the duration of the journey that would not have been possible by direct communication on VHF.

Mobile phones were of little use due to the restrictions in coverage.

Special thanks to John, EI1EM, Tom EI2GP, Steve EI5DD, and Arthur EI7GMB who operated the checkpoints at this event.

EI's on EQSL (as at August 1st 2010)

Updates and enquiries to Thos EI2JD at thoscaffrey@hotmail.com

DXCC Confirmed	46	EI7GSB (+8)	40	EJ9FBB
216 EI7BA (+1)	46	EI8JW (+2)	39	EI0CZ
174 EI3IO	44	EI8GHB (New)	38 EI2JD (+1)	
171 EI4CF	43	EI1NC (+6)	39	EI9HX
167 EI9FBB (+4)	43	EI7IS	38 EI8GS (+1)	
164 EI2JD (+1)	42	EI/DK2AT	38	EI9JU
164 EI7CC (+24)	42	EI5IX	37	EI3IO
156 EI0CZ (+12)	41	EI3EBB	35	EI9O
150 EJ9FBB	41	EI4DIB (+2)	34	EI1DG
148 EI9HX	41	EI4IR	34 EI5IF (+3)	
147 EI6IZ	39	EI0CPL (+19)	33	EI3GYB
140 EI7CC	39	EI6IF	33	EI7CC
130 EI9JU	38	EI7GSB (New)	32	EI4BZ
125 EI8GS (+10)	37	EI7GM (+3)	32	EI4GNB
121 EI9FVB	34	EI1KARG	32	EI6AL
117 EI6HB	34	EI3JB	32	EI9FVB
116 EI7JN	33	EI157I	31	EI5GM
115 EI3GYB	32	EI90GPO	31	EI6JK
110 EI1DG (+1)	30	EI7CHB	30	EI4GXB
110 EI6AL	28	EI4IN	30 EI8FH (New)	
109 EI5IF (+17)	27	EI3GAB (+3)	29	EI0W
107 EI8FH (+3)	27	EI3GDB	28	EI4GMB
105 EI9O	26	EI7IW	25	EI2GLB
104 EI4GXB	25	EI2FS	22	EI2KC
102 EI6JK	24	EI5GB	22	EI7JN
102 EI8IU	22	EI/G4DDL	15	EI8JB
102 EI9HQ (+1)	22 EI5HV (+New)		10	EI1429
101 EI4BZ	22	EI8GNB	10	EI4DIB
101 EI7JK (+3)	20	EI2IV	10	EI4IN
98 EI0W	18	EI4HX	8 EI7IW (New)	
92 EI7DAR			7 EI4HX (New)	
92 EJ9HQ			5 EI7CHB (New)	
88 EI3HA (+3)	50	EI4CF		
88 EI4GNB	50	EI8GS		
86 EI9ES	50	EI9FBB		
82 EI2GLB (+2)	50	EJ9FBB	1,255 EI4CF	
81 EI5GM	50	EI9HX	1,095 EI2JD (+19)	
79 EJ3HA	50	EI9JU	923 EI8GS (+33)	
79 EI4HH (+12)	49	EI9HQ	921 EI7CC (+55)	
79 EI7IX (+2)	49	EI9O	921 EI9FBB (+42)	
77 EI5GJB (+9)	49	EJ9HQ	824 EI9HQ (+13)	
77 EI5GUB	48	EI6HB	817 EI6JK	
76 EI8IQ (+3)	47	EI2JD	817 EI7DAR	
76 EI8JR	47	EI3IO	812 EI0W	
73 EI2II	47	EI7JN	797 EI3IO	
73 EI8DL	45	EI4BZ	785 EI0CZ (New)	
72 EI4HQ	45	EI4IS	709 EI9JU	
71 EI2KC (+7)	45	EI5GM	679 EI7BA	
71 EI3IS (New)	45	EI7BA	654 EI4GXB	
71 EI9CF	45	EI8GP	592 EI4BZ (+2)	
69 EI8GP	43	EI0CZ	587 EI9FVB	
68 EI/DH0GSU/p	43	EI0W	543 EI7JK (+37)	
66 EI7IM	41	EI4GNB	489 EI5IF (+32)	
65 EI7M	41	EI5IF	473 EI4GNB (+8)	
65 EI8DD	41	EI7DAR	441 EI8FH (New)	
62 EI5GSB	40	EI4GXB	433 EI5GM	
62 EI7BFB (+1)	40	EI7CC	400 EI1DG	
61 EI4IS	40	EI9HW	396 EI9JM (+6)	
61 EI9JM	32	EI6JK	398 EI9O (+35)	
58 EI6IL	31	EI4GMB	345 EI8GP	
58 EI9JF	30	EI9ES	338 EI8IU (+6)	
57 EI8JK	29	EI9FVB	314 EI8JB (+21)	
56 EI7BMB	26	EI6AL	287 EI3HA (New)	
56 EI8JB	26	EI9JM	237 EI2GLB	
55 EI5HE	15	EI8JB	213 EI7JN	
55 EI6CPB	13	EI2GLB	201 EI2KC	
54 EI7IQ	7	EI4DIB	200 EI4GMB	
53 EI6ARB	5 EI4IN (New)		93 EI4DIB (+47)	
52 EI4GMB	2 EI7IW (New)		75 EI1429	
52 EI9EW			58 EI7IW	
50 EI6AK			51 EI4IN	
49 EI2FSB	40	EI4CF	45 EI7CHB	
47 EI6GGB (+2)	40 EI7BA (+1)		31 EI4HX	
46 EI1429	40	EI9FBB		

Worked All States

Worked Prefixes

EI DXCC Listings (13/08/10)

Mixed

356 EI8H (+3)	
351 EI6S	
347 EI7CC	
341 EI6FR	
340 EI2GS	
334 EI7BA	
321 EI3IO	
306 EI2HY	
300 EI9FBB	
287 EI9JF (+ 39)	
269 EI2CR	
262 EI2GX	
262 EI2JD	
255 EI5GM	
253 EI9O	
249 EI8GS (New)	
246 EI6IZ (+12)	
240 EI4BZ	
226 EI9FVB (+26)	
211 EI8IU	
210 EI6IL	
194 EI1DG (New)	
170 EI4HH (New)	
152 EI6HB	
140 EI4GXB	
134 EI9HQ	
133 EI7GY	
129 EI5GUB	
128 EI8HA	
117 EI3HA	
111 EI5IF (New)	
103 EI6AL	
102 EI2GLB (New)	
101 EI7JQ (New)	
100 EI4HQ	

Phone

348 EI6S	
345 EI7CC	
338 EI2GS	
334 EI8EM	
331 EI8AR	
318 EI6FR	
301 EI7BA	
300 EI8AU	
286 EI3GV (+9)	
284 EI9FBB	
264 EI4GK	
249 EI8GS (+20)	
242 EI2JD	
226 EI9FVB (+26)	
225 EI9JF (+32)	
213 EI7GL	
200 EI6IL	
188 EI2CH (+23)	
186 EI7II	
177 EI9FE	
167 EI4BZ	
162 EI4HH (+43)	
152 EI8IU	
129 EI9HQ	
114 EI4EX	
108 EI6HB	
105 EI1CS	
105 EI9HX	
101 EI3IP	

CW

318 EI7BA	
316 EI7CC (+2)	
274 EI6FR	
259 EI9FBB	
253 EI9JF (+ 75)	
230 EI6IZ (+12)	
229 EI4BZ	
208 EI2JD	
160 EI8IU	
154 EI1DG (+48)	
122 EI5GM	
119 EI7GY	
109 EI2IH	
109 EI4HM	
107 EI/GM4ARJ	
100 EI6AL	

RTTY/Digital

153 EI1DG (New)	
127 EI7BA	
126 EI6FR	
102 EI6HB	

Satellite - No Entry

160m

195 EI3IO	
188 EI7BA	
113 EI9FBB	
110 EI6IZ (+7)	

80m

304 EI6S	
230 EI7BA	
205 EI9FBB	
126 EI3IO	
124 EI2JD	
110 EI4BZ	
108 EI6FR	
104 EI6IZ (+3)	

40m

263 EI7BA	
214 EI9FBB	
177 EI9JF (New)	
167 EI3IO	
152 EI2JD	
149 EI6FR	
143 EI6IZ (+5)	
129 EI4BZ	
117 EI7GL	

30m

250 EI7BA	
215 EI3IO	
191 EI9FBB	
167 EI9JF (New)	
152 EI6IZ (+14)	
145 EI6FR	
110 EI4BZ	

20m

297 EI7BA	
287 EI6FR	
278 EI9FBB	
243 EI3IO	
217 EI9JF (+67)	
193 EI2JD	
177 EI8GS (+66)	
170 EI4BZ	
165 EI6IZ (+11)	
139 EI9FVB (+22)	

115 EI3GV (+5)

105 EI9HQ	
17m	
282 EI7BA	
241 EI9FBB	
164 EI6FR	
146 EI9JF (New)	
123 EI6IZ (+15)	
107 EI3IO	
103 EI2JD	
15m	
254 EI7BA	
224 EI9FBB	
221 EI6FR	
188 EI3IO	
171 EI4BZ	
165 EI8GS (+56)	
148 EI2JD	
124 EI9FVB (+21)	
119 EI6IZ (+12)	
110 EI3GV (+1)	
111 EI9JF (New)	

12m

180 EI7BA	
158 EI9FBB	

10m

250 EI3IO	
197 EI7BA	
156 EI4BZ	
154 EI6FR	
144 EI7GL	
144 EI8GS (+40)	
139 EI9FBB	
134 EI2JD	
128 EI4GK	

6m

157 EI3IO	
111 EI7GL	
101 EI3EBB	

DXCC Challenge

2,168 EI7BA	
1,852 EI9FBB	
1,699 EI3IO	
1,582 EI7CC (+61)	
1,384 EI6FR	
1,144 EI2JD	
1,086 EI6IZ (+85)	
1,026 EI9JF (New)	

DXCC Honor Roll

Mixed

338 EI6FR/341	
335 EI2GS/340	
335 EI6S/351	
335 EI7CC/347	
332 EI7BA/334	
331 EI8H/356 (New)	

Phone

334 EI6S/348	
333 EI2GS/338	
333 EI7CC/345	
329 EI8EM/334	

DXCC Band Status (13/08/10)											
		160m	80m	40m	30m	20m	17m	15m	12m	10m	6m
9	EI3IO										
9	EI7BA										
9	EI9FBB										
7	EI6FR										
7	EI6IZ										
6	EI2JD										
6	EI4BZ										
5	EI9JF										
3	EI7GL										
3	EI8GS										
2	EI3GV										
2	EI9FVB										
1	EI3EBB										
1	EI4GK										
1	EI6S										
1	EI9HQ										

Members Advertisements

For Sale

Yaesu FT -736R. Boxed, Manual, MD1 Mic, SP-767 filtered speaker The full line up €700.00
 Icom IC 2725E. Remote installation kit, Manual, boxed €275.00
 Kenwood TM211E manual. boxed €70.00
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 Mizumo K X 3 Shortwave ATU €50 00
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DX Code of Conduct

1. I will listen, and listen, and then listen some more.
2. I will only call if I can copy the DX station properly.
3. I will not trust the cluster and will be sure of the DX station's call sign before calling.
4. I will not interfere with the DX station nor anyone calling him and will never tune up on the DX frequency or in the QSX slot.
5. I will wait for the DX station to end a contact before calling him.
6. I will always send my full call sign.
7. I will call and then listen for a reasonable interval. I will not call continuously.
8. I will not transmit when the DX operator calls another call sign, not mine.
9. I will not transmit when the DX operator queries a call sign not like mine.
10. I will not transmit when the DX station calls other geographic areas than mine.
11. When the DX operator calls me, I will not repeat my call sign unless I think he has copied it incorrectly.
12. I will be thankful if and when I do make a contact.
13. I will respect my fellow hams and conduct myself so as to earn their respect.



Radio News Deadline

Noon on Thursdays

News Editor: Charlie Carolan EI8JB

Input for the radio news should be sent via e-mail to:

**charlie.carolan@ gmail.com or newsteam@irts.ie
or by phone to: 087-6265418**

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Tel: 085-7039042
Email: ei7gtb@gmail.com

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ceiver/scanner: 25-2000 MHz

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